MCRP 3-01B

PISTOL MARKSMANSHIP

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Pistol Marksmanship

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Chapter 1
Introduction to Pistol Marksmanship

1001. Role of the Marine and Pistol Marksmanship

Marine Corps forces are employed across the entire range of military operations. Conflict within the range of military operations can take a wide range of forms reflecting the degree of violence involved. At one end is war. War is characterized by large-scale, sustained combat operations. At the other end of the scale are those actions referred to as military operations other than war. Military operations other than war focus on deterring aggression, resolving conflict, promoting peace, and supporting civil authorities. These operations can occur before, during, and after combat operations. By definition, military operations other than war do not involve combat. However, Marines always need to be prepared to protect themselves and respond to changing situations. The M9 service pistol is primarily used as a defensive weapon. Whenever the situation warrants the application of deadly force, a Marine must be able to deliver well-aimed shots to eliminate the threat. Sometimes the need for a well-aimed shot may even be heightened by the presence of noncombatants in close proximity to the target. The Marine who is proficient in pistol marksmanship handles this challenge without escalating the level of violence or causing collateral damage unnecessarily. Marines must have the versatility, flexibility, and skills to deal with a situation at any level of intensity across the entire range of military operations.

To be combat ready, the Marine must be skilled in the tactics, techniques, and procedures of pistol marksmanship and diligent in the proper care and maintenance of his pistol. Although equipped with the best equipment in the world, a unit with poorly trained Marines cannot be depended upon to accomplish its mission. A poorly trained Marine can lack confidence or may even possess false confidence. Usually, the poorly trained Marine either fails to fire his weapon or wastes ammunition by firing ineffectively. To send Marines into harm's way, without thorough training in the use of their individual weapons carries undue risks for every Marine in that unit. On the other hand, a well-trained Marine can deliver accurate fire against the enemy under the most adverse conditions. The well-trained Marine is not only confident that he will help his unit accomplish its mission, but also confident that he can protect his fellow Marines and himself.

1002. Combat Mindset

In a combat environment, the Marine must be constantly prepared to engage targets. When a target presents itself, there may be little time to take action. The target must be engaged quickly and accurately. Combat presents a unique set of demands on a Marine. Common experiences include: violence, danger, fear, stress, uncertainty, pain, and rapidly changing situations. Marines must be both physically and mentally prepared to face these horrors. It will not be enough to simply know marksmanship techniques. Marines must have the ability to eliminate their own hesitancy, fear, or uncertainty of action and focus on the actions required to fire well-aimed shots. The combat mindset requires both physical and mental preparation.

a. Physical Preparation. In combat, targets can present themselves without warning. Therefore, it is essential for the Marine to maintain proper balance and control of his weapon at all times so he can quickly present the weapon and accurately engage the target. However, speed alone does not equate to effective target engagement. The Marine should fire only as fast as he can fire accurately, never exceeding his physical capabilities to apply the fundamentals of marksmanship. To be effective in combat, the Marine must train to perfect the physical skills of shooting so they become second nature. The more physical skills that can be performed automatically, the more concentration that can be given to the mental side of target engagement.

b. Mental Preparation. While combat is unpredictable and constantly changing, the Marine can prepare himself mentally for the contingencies of the operational setting so he can act readily when confronted with a threat. The stress of combat, coupled with the often limited time available to engage targets, requires concentration on the mental aspects of target engagement, e.g., identification of targets, shoot/no-shoot decision making, and the selection and use of cover.

(1) Knowledge of the Combat Environment. Be constantly aware of the surroundings to include the terrain, available cover, possible threats, etc. This awareness will enable the Marine to quickly present the weapon and accurately engage targets.

(2) Plan of Action. In combat, the situation will dictate the action to be taken. The Marine must identify and evaluate possible courses of action and develop a plan for target engagement that will be appropriate to the requirements of the situation when it presents itself.

(3) Confidence. A Marine's level of confidence is rooted in the belief that future challenges will be overcome-- particularly the challenge of firing well-aimed shots in the stress of a combat situation. A key factor in a Marine's level of confidence is the degree to which he has mastered the tactics, techniques, and procedures of pistol marksmanship. Mastery of pistol marksmanship can only be obtained through a combination of classroom instruction, the application of the marksmanship fundamentals during dry and live firing, and while using marksmanship training devices.

Chapter 2
Introduction to the M9 Service Pistol

Note
The procedures in this manual are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines should reverse instructions as necessary.

2001. Characteristics

- The M9 service pistol is a semiautomatic, magazine fed, recoil operated, double action pistol, chambered for the 9mm ball, NATO M882 round.
- The pistol can be fired single action or double action and is designed to fire one round each time the trigger is pulled. When the last round is fired, the slide automatically locks to the rear.
- The pistol has a maximum effective range of 50 meters (54.7 yards).
- The magazine holds 15 rounds.

2002. Functional Capabilities

When the M9 service pistol is taken off safe, it can be fired in the single action and double action mode.

a. Single Action Mode. The single action mode is a functional capability of the pistol that allows the pistol to be fired when the hammer is cocked; single action requires the hammer to be cocked to the rear before the trigger is pulled. The hammer can be manually cocked or mechanically cocked. The hammer is mechanically cocked after the first shot is fired. See figure 2-1.

Figure 2-1. M9 Service Pistol Single Action Mode.

b. Double Action Mode. The double action mode is a functional capability of the pistol that causes the hammer to move to the rear as the trigger is being pulled. See figure 2-2.

Figure 2-2. M9 Service Pistol Double Action Mode.

2003. Nomenclature

a. Right Side of Pistol. See figure 2-3.

(1) Decocking/Safety Lever.

(2) Firing Pin Block

(3) Extractor / Loaded Chamber Indicator

(4) Disassembly Button

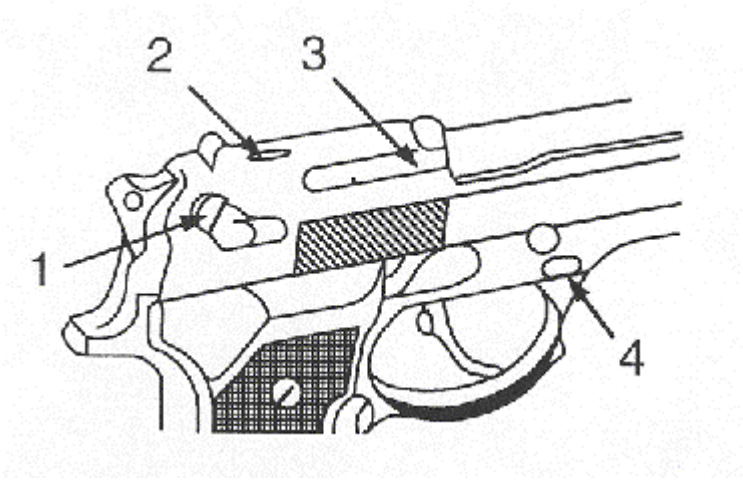

Figure 2-3. M9 Service Pistol - Right Side View.

b. Left Side of Pistol. See figure 2-4.

(5) Front Sight

(6) Slide Assembly

(7) Disassembly Lever

(8) Slide Stop

(9) Rear Sight

(10) Hammer

(11) Receiver

(12) Grip

(13) Lanyard Loop

(14) Magazine

(15) Magazine Catch Assembly

(16) Trigger

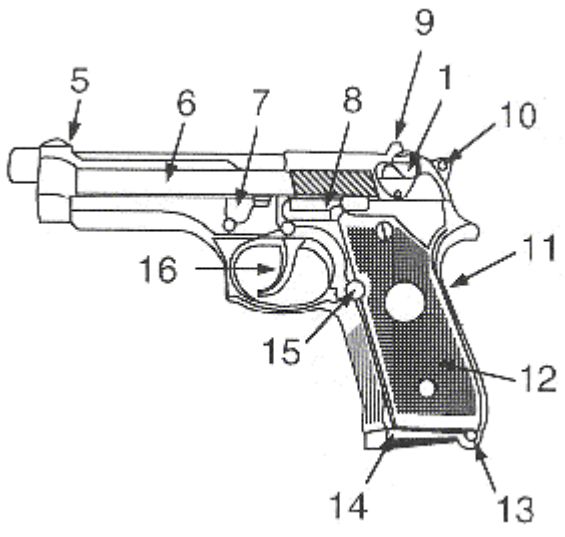

Figure 2-4. M9 Service Pistol - Left Side View.

2004. Major Components. See figure 2-5.

a. Slide Assembly. The slide assembly houses the firing pin, firing pin block, striker, extractor, and loaded chamber indicator, and cocks the hammer during recoil.

(1) Extractor. The extractor pulls the brass from the chamber after the round is fired.

(2) Loaded Chamber Indicator. When a round is in the chamber, the upper surface of the loaded chamber indicator protrudes from the right side of the slide. This protrusion can be felt by touch to verify that there is a round in the chamber.

b. Barrel Assembly. The barrel assembly houses the round for firing, directs the projectile, and locks the barrel in position during firing.

c. Receiver. The receiver supports the major components, controls the functioning of the pistol, and holds the magazine in place. The front and back straps of the grip are vertically grooved to ensure the hand does not slip when firing.

(1) Disassembly Button. This component permits quick disassembly of the pistol. While depressing the disassembly button, rotate the disassembly lever down.

(2) Slide Stop. The slide stop holds the slide to the rear after the last round is fired. It can also be manually operated to lock the slide to the rear or to release the slide.

(3) Magazine Catch Assembly (Magazine Release Button). This component secures the magazine in place when loading and releases the magazine from the pistol when unloading. The magazine catch assembly is designed for both right- and left-handed Marines. (Reversal of the magazine catch assembly for left-handed Marines can be performed by a qualified armorer.)

Figure 2-5. M9 Service Pistol Major Components.

2005. Safety Features

The safety features of the M9 service pistol include the safety, firing pin block, and half-cock notch.

a. Decocking/Safety Lever. The safety permits safe operation of the pistol by both right- and left-handed shooters. As the safety is moved to the safe (down) position, the firing pin striker moves out of alignment with the firing pin. This movement prevents the pistol from firing as the hammer moves forward.

Note
In the fire (up) position, a red dot is visible, indicating the pistol is ready to fire.

b. Firing Pin Block. The firing pin block rests in the firing pin notch and prevents movement of the firing pin until the trigger is pulled. As the trigger is pulled, the firing pin block moves up and out of the firing pin notch. This movement allows a round to be fired when the hammer strikes the firing pin.

c. Half-Cock Notch. The half-cock notch stops the forward movement of the hammer during a mechanical failure.

2006. Cycle of Operation

There are eight steps in the cycle of operation for the M9 service pistol:

a. **Firing.** Once the safety is off and the trigger is pulled to the rear, the hammer falls on the firing pin, which strikes the primer and ignites the round. See figure 2-6.

Figure 2-6. Firing.

b. Unlocking. As the slide assembly moves to the rear, the locking block rotates out of the notches in the slide. See figure 2-7.

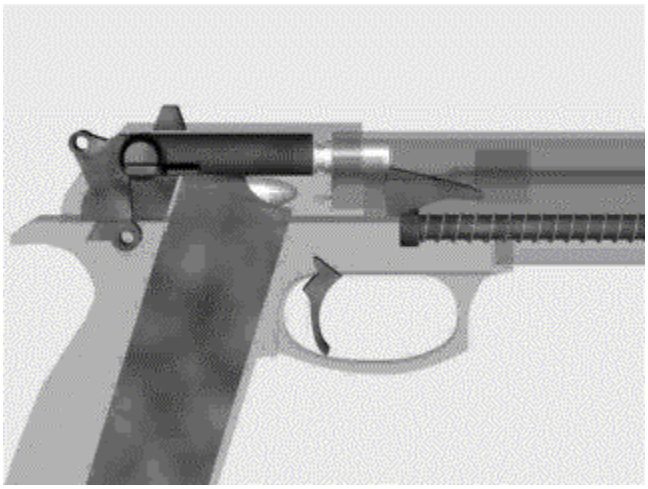

Figure 2-7. Unlocking.

c. Extracting. As the slide moves rearward, the extractor withdraws the cartridge case out of the chamber. See figure 2-8.

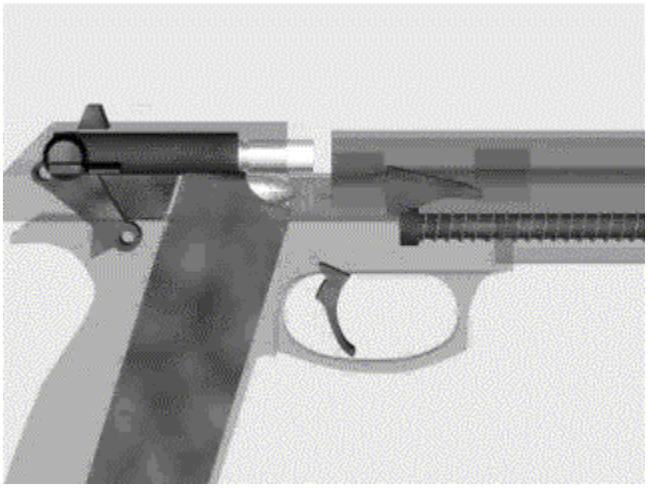

Figure 2-8. Extracting.

d. Ejecting. As the face of the slide passes over the ejector, the case strikes the ejector and is knocked upward and outward through the ejection port. See figure 2-9.

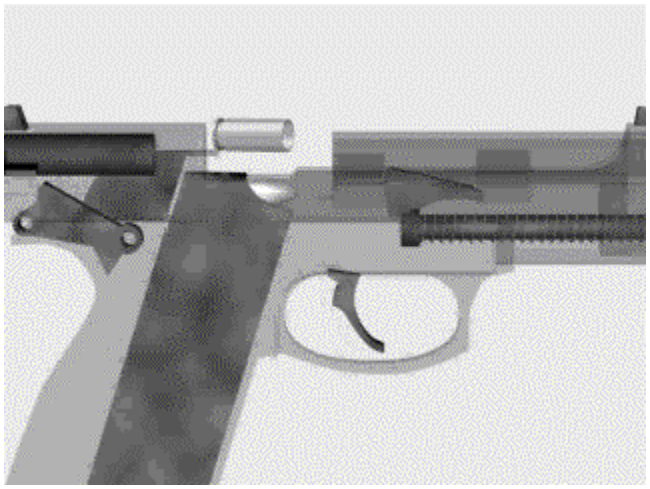

Figure 2-9. Ejecting.

e. Cocking. As the slide moves rearward, the hammer is pushed back allowing the sear to engage the hammer hooks, cocking the hammer to the rear and placing the pistol in the single action mode. See figure 2-10.

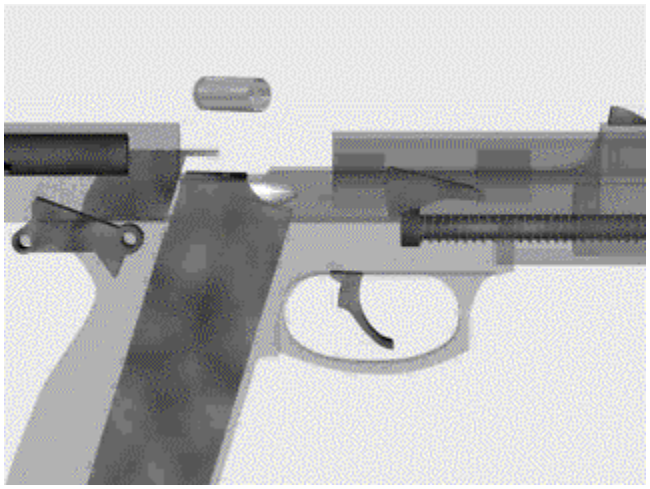

Figure 2-10. Cocking.

f. Feeding. The slide starts forward, pushed by the recoil spring. The face of the slide makes contact with the cartridge at the top of the magazine, stripping it from the magazine and pushing it toward the chamber. See figure 2-11.

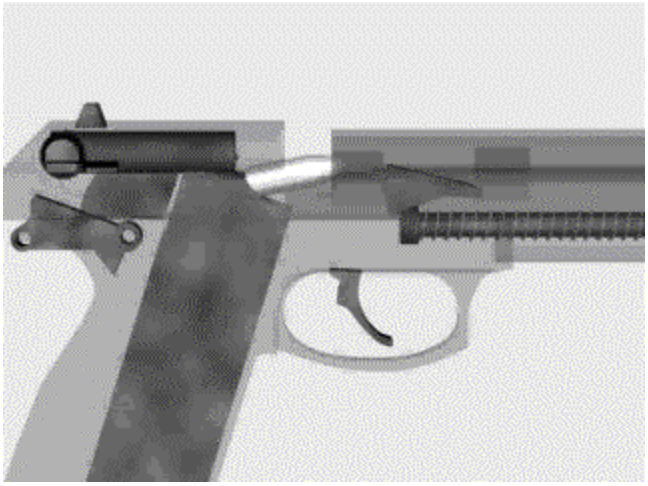

Figure 2-11. Feeding.

f. Chambering. As the slide continues forward, it pushes the cartridge into the chamber. See figure 2-12.

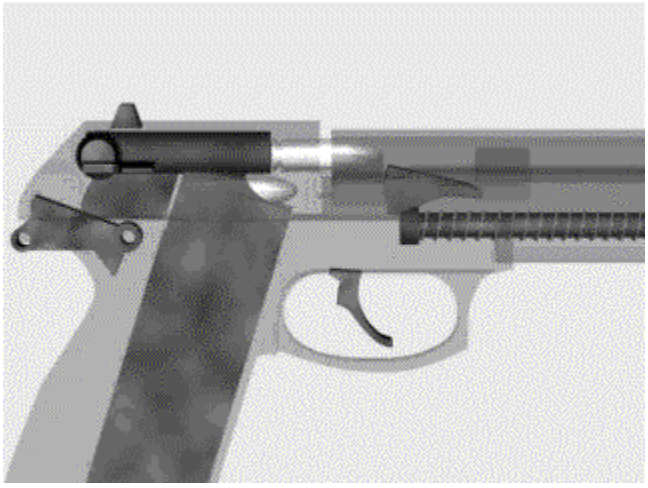

Figure 2-12. Chambering.

h. Locking. As the slide assembly continues to move forward, the locking block lugs move into the locking block recesses on the right and left sides of the slide. See figure 2-13.

Figure 2-13. Locking.

2007. Ammunition

The only ammunition authorized for the M9 service pistol is 9mm ball, NATO M882. See figure 2-14. For training purposes, dummy ammunition can be used. A dummy round is identified by a hole drilled in its side and the absence of a primer. Do not open ammunition containers until the ammunition is to be used. Ammunition must be cared for just as the pistol is maintained -- in a high state of readiness. To care for ammunition:

- Keep ammunition dry and clean. If ammunition gets wet or dirty, wipe it off with a clean dry cloth.
- Wipe off light corrosion as soon as it is discovered. Never use ammunition that is heavily corroded, dented, or has the projectile pushed in.
- Do not expose ammunition to the direct rays of the sun for long periods of time.
- Do not oil or grease ammunition. Dust or other abrasives that collect on greasy ammunition may cause damage to the operating parts of the pistol. Oiled cartridges produce excessive chamber pressure.

Figure 2-14. M9 Service Pistol Ammunition.

2008. Wearing of M9 Service Pistol Gear

The proper placement of pistol gear will help ensure safety and aid the Marine in effectively handling and employing the weapon.

a. M12 Holster. The M12 holster consists of the holster, removable holster flap, and metal retaining clip which can be installed on either side of the holster for right or left-handed Marines. See figure 2-15.

- To check for proper placement of the holster, allow the right arm to hang freely. The holster should be slightly in front of the arm to permit easy access to the pistol upon presentation from the holster.

- In most cases, the holster is issued with the holster flap installed for right-handed Marines. To convert the holster for left-handed Marines, remove the metal retaining clip and install on the opposite side of the holster.

b. M1 Ammunition Pocket. The ammunition pocket should be attached to the cartridge belt on the side opposite the holster in a position that best permits ready access for reloads. A magazine should be stored in the ammunition pocket with rounds down and pointed inboard.

Figure 2-15. Wearing of M12 Holster and Ammunition Pocket.

c. M7 Shoulder Holster. The M7 shoulder holster consists of a holster with a thumb snap closure, shoulder strap, chest strap, and a belt retaining loop. The holster is positioned on the left side of the chest to provide easy and quick access with the right hand. See figure 2-16. The M7 holster comes fully assembled and has adjustable straps to accommodate each individual Marine's body size. The holster is available for right-handed Marines only, therefore, left-handed Marines will have to withdraw the pistol from the holster with the right hand and then transfer the pistol to the left hand before firing. (See paragraph 9005 on transferring the pistol from one hand to the other). When worn properly:

- The shoulder strap lays flat across the left shoulder with the shoulder pad directly on top of the shoulder.
- The chest strap is attached to the D-ring at the top of the holster, and runs diagonally across the chest, underneath the right arm, and around the back where it attaches to the end of the shoulder strap.
- The belt retaining loop is located at the bottom of the holster and is attached to the belt to stabilize the holsters position.
- The ammunition pocket is attached to the chest strap directly underneath the right arm.

Figure 2-16. Wearing of M7 Shoulder Holster.

c. Assault Holster. Many Marines (e.g., Marine Security Force, Direct Action Platoon, Military Police) carry the assault holster. This holster has a retention strap that fastens over the top of the holster to retain the pistol. This type of holster generally has a thumb break on the retention strap that is disengaged to access the pistol. See figure 2-17.

Figure 2-17. Wearing of the Assault Holster.

e. Concealed Pistol Holster. A small percentage of Marines is required to carry a concealed pistol as part of their Marine Corps duties. There are several places a concealed pistol may be carried on the person.

- The primary consideration for placement of a concealed holster is to ensure the pistol cannot be seen. When considering placement of the concealed holster, the Marine must consider the type of clothing he will be wearing. See figures 2-18, 2-19, 2-20, and 2-21.

Figure 2-18. Wearing of the Concealed Pistol Holster – Utilities.

Figure 2-19. Wearing of the Concealed Pistol Holster – Sweater.

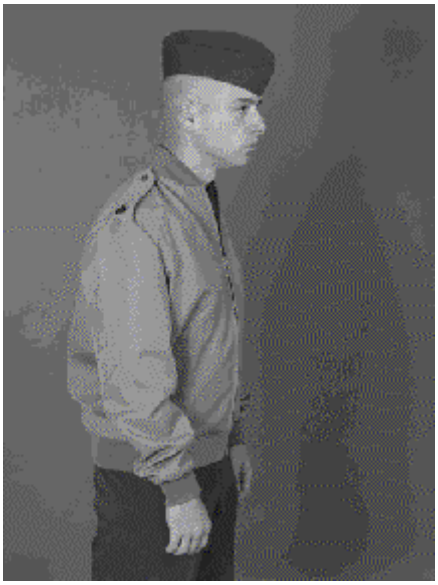

Figure 2-20. Wearing of the Concealed Pistol Holster – Jacket.

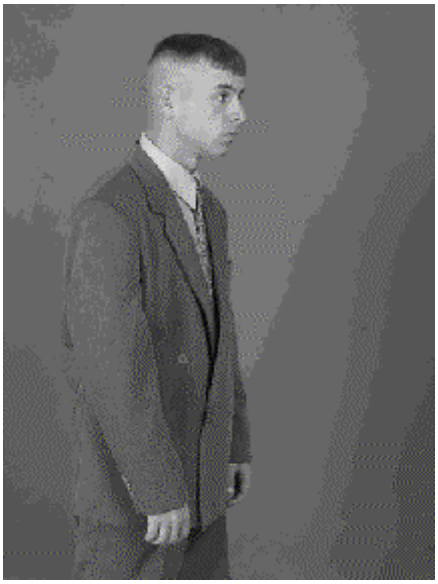

Figure 2-21. Wearing of the Concealed Pistol Holster – Civilian Attire.

- A secondary consideration is to place it so the pistol can be presented easily. In most cases, the best position for a concealed holster is just behind the strong side hip. This position best conceals the weapon while allowing it to be presented quickly. See figures 2-22, 2-23, 2-24, and 2-25. A second position is in a shoulder holster placing the pistol just under the weak side arm.

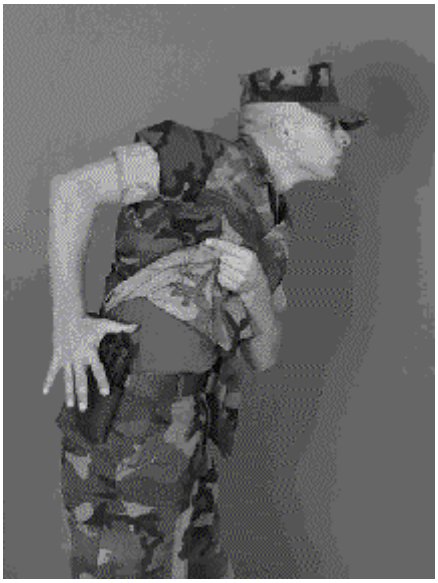

Figure 2-22. Wearing of the Concealed Pistol Holster – Utilities (Cont.).

Figure 2-23. Wearing of the Concealed Pistol Holster – Sweater (Cont.).

Figure 2-24. Wearing of the Concealed Pistol Holster – Jacket (Cont.).

Figure 2-25. Wearing of the Concealed Pistol Holster – Civilian Attire (Cont.).

f. Lanyard. The lanyard is used primarily to aid in weapons retention. It is adjustable and consists of a fabric cord, two cylindrical slip rings, and a metal clip which attaches the lanyard to the lanyard loop of the pistol. See figure 2-26. To don the lanyard:

- Adjust the slip rings so they are positioned flush with the base (clip end) of the lanyard.
- Place the right arm through the loop and place the loop over the head, resting on the left shoulder.
- Attach the metal clip to the lanyard loop on the pistol.
- Place the pistol in the holster.
- With the left hand, hold the bottom slip ring against the base of the lanyard. With the right hand, slide the top slip ring upward to position the loop of the lanyard under the arm. The lanyard should fit snugly against the body, but not restrict the Marine's movements.
- If necessary, tuck any excess cord behind the holster.
- To ensure the lanyard is adjusted properly, remove the pistol from the holster and fully extend the right arm. The lanyard should be taut. Make adjustments as necessary.
- The lanyard must be re-adjusted if any equipment changes are made (e.g., flak jacket).
- The lanyard is issued in three sizes.

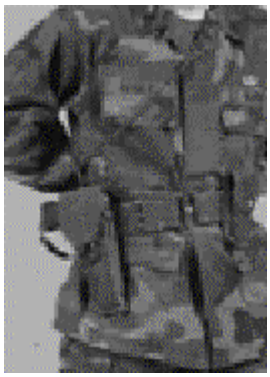

Figure 2-26. Wearing of M9 Service Pistol Gear (with lanyard).

g. Firing the M9 Service Pistol While Wearing Gloves. Not all combat engagements will take place during ideal weather conditions. During cold weather, the Marine may find it necessary to wear gloves to protect his fingers from frostbite and help prevent stiffening of the hands. Gloves may also be worn in MOPP conditions. Gloves provide protection to the hands, however, they also may interfere with the Marine's ability to engage targets effectively.

(1) Operational Features. The added bulk of the gloves may affect the Marine's ability to manipulate the safety, magazine release button, magazine, hammer, and slide stop/release. For example, the Marine may need to exert more pressure with his finger to engage the magazine release or slide release buttons to compensate for the thickness of the gloves.

(2) Thumbcocking the Pistol. The Marine may find it particularly difficult to fire the pistol in the double action mode due to the position of the trigger and the limited amount of space between the trigger and the trigger guard. Therefore, if the situation permits, the Marine may wish to thumbcock the pistol to fire in single action mode. In single action, there is more space between the trigger guard and the trigger, making it easier to position the finger on the trigger. However, the Marine's ability to thumbcock the pistol may also be hindered by the bulk of the gloves. Therefore, to thumbcock the pistol while wearing gloves, the Marine may perform one of the following procedures:

(a) Method One. Loop a section of 550 cord (approximately two inches) through the loop located on the top rear portion of the hammer. The length of the cord should not interfere with the weapon's cycle of operation or with the Marine's ability to establish sight alignment. Once the cord has been attached to the hammer, take the weapon off safe and pull downward on the cord to cock the hammer. See figure 2-27.

Figure 2-27. Cocking the Pistol with 550 Cord.

(b) Method Two. Take the weapon off safe, rotate the weapon inboard, and place the top of the hammer against a secure surface (cartridge belt, heel of boot, etc.). Applying pressure on the pistol to keep the hammer in place, push downward on the pistol in one continuous motion to cock the hammer. See figure 2-28.

Figure 2-28. Cocking the Pistol with Secure Surface.

(3) Firing the Pistol. The principles of target engagement do not change when wearing gloves, however, the specific ability to manipulate and control the trigger will be greatly affected by the thickness of the gloves around the fingers. Wearing gloves reduces the Marine's sense of feel or touch in the fingers which make it difficult to apply trigger control when firing. The Marine may find that he needs to apply more pressure than normal with his trigger finger just to establish initial contact with the trigger. Once the Marine can "feel" the trigger through the gloves, then he can begin applying the pressure required to fire a shot. This action may increase the chances of firing the weapon prematurely, due to excessive pressure on the trigger. Dry firing while wearing gloves will allow the Marine to learn how to apply trigger control consistently and determine how much pressure he will need to effectively fire a shot.

2009. Preventive Maintenance

If the M9 service pistol is to be effective, it must be maintained in a state of operational readiness at all times. Maintenance of the M9 service pistol is a continuous effort. A clean, properly lubricated, well-maintained pistol will fire when needed.

a. Pistol Disassembly. Before disassembling the pistol, ensure the pistol is in Condition 4. The pistol is in Condition 4 when the magazine is removed, the chamber is empty, the slide is forward, and the safety is on. To disassemble the pistol, perform the following steps in sequence:

- Hold the pistol in the right hand with the muzzle slightly elevated. Reach over the slide with the left hand and place the left index finger on the disassembly button and the left thumb on the disassembly lever. Press the disassembly button and hold it in place while rotating the disassembly lever downward until it stops.

Note

A left-handed Marine will place the right thumb on the disassembly button and the right index finger on the disassembly lever.

- Pull the slide and barrel assembly forward and remove it while wrapping the fingers around the slide to hold the recoil spring and recoil spring guide in place.

- Turn the slide assembly over in the left hand until the recoil spring and recoil spring guide face up. Place the right thumb on the end of the recoil spring guide next to the locking block and compress the recoil spring and spring guide while lifting and removing them from the slide and barrel assembly. See figure 2-29. Allow the recoil spring to decompress slowly.

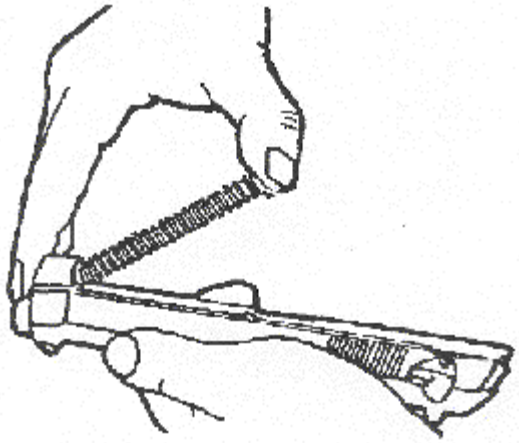

Figure 2-29. Removing the Recoil Spring and Recoil Spring Guide.

- Separate the recoil spring from the recoil spring guide.

- Push in on the locking block plunger with the right index finger while pushing the barrel forward slightly. Lift and remove the locking block and barrel assembly from the slide. This is the furthest the Marine is authorized to disassemble the weapon. Any further disassembly is to be performed by ordnance personnel only. See figure 2-30.

Figure 2-30. M9 Service Pistol Disassembled.

b. Disassembly of the Magazine. See figure 2-31.

- Grip the magazine firmly in the left hand with the floorplate up and the thumb resting against the flat end of the floorplate.

- Release the floorplate by pushing down on the floorplate retainer stud in the center of the floorplate (this is done with a blunt object like an ink pen). At the same time, slide the floorplate a short distance forward with the thumb.

- While maintaining the magazine spring pressure with the thumb, remove the floorplate from the magazine.

- Remove the floorplate retainer and magazine spring and follower from the magazine tube.

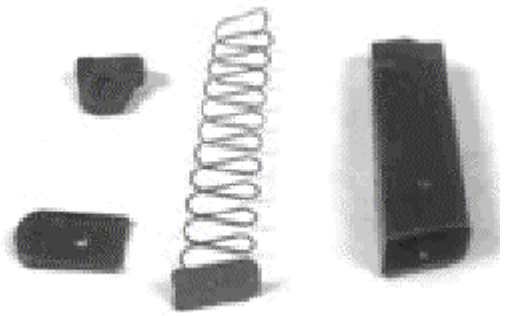

Figure 2-31. M9 Service Pistol Magazine Disassembled.

c. Inspection of the Pistol. Once the pistol has been disassembled, it must be thoroughly inspected to ensure it is in serviceable condition. The inspection of the pistol is a continuous process during cleaning and reassembly of the pistol.

(1) Slide Assembly. Check for free movement of the safety. Ensure the rear sight is secure.

(2) Barrel Assembly. Inspect the bore and chamber for pitting or obstructions. Check the locking block plunger for free movement of the locking block. Inspect the locking lugs for cracks and burrs.

(3) Recoil Spring and Recoil Spring Guide. Check the recoil spring for damage. Check that it is not bent. Check the recoil spring guide for straightness and smoothness. Check to be sure it is free of cracks and burrs.

(4) Receiver Assembly. Check for bends, chips, and cracks. Check for free movement of the slide stop and magazine catch assembly. Check the guide rails for excessive wear, burrs, cracks, or chips.

(5) Magazine Assembly. Check the spring and follower for damage. Ensure the lips of the magazine are not excessively bent and are free of cracks and burrs. The magazine tube should not be bent or dirty.

d. Cleaning and Lubrication of the Pistol. Only authorized cleaning materials should be used to clean and lubricate the pistol. If these items are not issued with the weapon, they may be obtained from the armory.

(1) Slide Assembly. Clean the slide assembly with a cloth. A general purpose brush and cleaning lubricant protectant (CLP) can assist in the removal of excess dirt and carbon buildup. Ensure the safety, bolt face, slide guides, and extractor are free of dirt and residue. Wipe dry with a cloth and apply a light coat of CLP.

(2) Barrel Assembly. Insert a bore brush with CLP into the chamber end of the barrel, making sure it completely clears the muzzle before it is pulled back through the bore.

CAUTION
Insert the bore brush through the chamber
to prevent damage to the crown of the barrel.

Repeat several times to loosen carbon deposits. Dry the barrel by pushing a swab through the bore. Repeat until a clean swab can be observed. Clean the locking block with a general purpose brush. Using the barrel brush, apply a light coat of CLP to the bore and chamber area and lubricate the exterior surfaces of the barrel and locking block.

(3) Recoil Spring and Recoil Spring Guide. Clean the recoil spring and recoil spring guide using CLP and a general purpose brush or cloth. After wiping the recoil spring and recoil spring guide clean, apply a light coat of CLP.

(4) Receiver. Wipe the receiver assembly clean with a cloth. Use a general purpose brush for areas that are hard to reach. Pay special attention to the disassembly lever, trigger, slide stop, hammer, and magazine release button. Apply a light coat of CLP.

CAUTION
Do not allow the hammer to fall with full
force by pulling the trigger when the slide
is removed because this can cause damage to
the receiver and hammer.

(5) Magazine. Clean the magazine tube and follower with CLP and a general purpose brush. With a cloth, wipe the magazine spring, floorplate retainer, and floorplate clean. Apply a light coat of CLP.

e. Pistol Reassembly. After the M9 service pistol has been cleaned and lubricated, it must be reassembled properly to ensure its serviceability.

- With the left hand, grasp the slide with the bottom facing up and the muzzle pointing toward the body. With the right hand, grasp the barrel assembly with the locking block facing up. With the index finger, push in the locking block plunger while placing the thumb on the base of the locking block.

- Insert the muzzle of the barrel assembly into the forward open end of the slide. At the same time, lower the rear of the barrel assembly by slightly moving the barrel downward. The locking block should fall into the notches of the slide assembly.

- Slip the recoil spring guide into the recoil spring.

- Insert the end of the recoil spring and recoil spring guide into the slide recoil spring housing. At the same time, compress the recoil spring and lower the spring guide until it is fully seated onto the locking block cutaway.

- With the left hand, grasp the slide and barrel assembly, sights up, and wrap the fingers around the slide assembly to hold the recoil spring and guide in place. Align the slide assembly guide rails onto the receiver assembly guide rails.

- Push the slide rearward while pushing up on the slide stop with the thumb. Lock the slide to the rear while maintaining upward pressure on the slide stop. Rotate the disassembly lever upward. An audible click indicates a positive lock.

g. Pistol Magazine Reassembly

- Grip the magazine firmly in the left hand with the floorplate end up and the counting holes facing the Marine. Insert the follower into the magazine so the flat end of the follower is against the flat end of the magazine.

- Ensure the floorplate retainer is attached to the first curve of the bottom coil.

- Holding the spring upright with the right hand, insert the spring into the magazine tube so the flat end of the floorplate retainer is against the flat end of the magazine.

- Push the magazine spring and floorplate retainer down with the right hand and hold it in place with the thumb of the left hand. With the right hand, slide the floorplate over the side walls of the magazine until fully seated. This will be indicated by an aubible click.

2010. Safety/Function Check

A safety/function check is performed after reassembling the M9 service pistol. Perform the following to ensure the pistol is operational:

- Ensure there is no ammunition in the chamber of the pistol.
- With the safety in the safe position, depress the slide stop, allowing the slide to return fully forward. At the same time, the hammer should fall to the full forward position.
- Pull and release the trigger. The firing pin block should move up and down but the hammer should not move.
- Place the safety in the fire position.
- Pull the trigger to check the double action. The hammer should cock and fall.
- Pull the trigger again and hold it to the rear. With the fingers and thumb of the left hand, grasp the serrated sides of the slide just forward of the safety. Pull the slide to its rearmost position and release it while holding the trigger to the rear. Release the trigger. A click should be heard and the hammer should not fall.
- Pull the trigger to check the single action. The hammer should fall. Place the safety on safe.
- If the safety/function check does not indicate an operational pistol, take the pistol to organizational maintenance or the next authorized repair level.

2011. User Serviceability Inspection

Marines are responsible for performing a user serviceability inspection on their weapons prior to live fire. The user serviceability inspection ensures the weapon is in an acceptable operating condition. This inspection is not intended to replace the detailed weapon components inspection following disassembly or the Limited Technical Inspection (LTI) or pre-fire inspection (PFI) conducted by a qualified armorer. To conduct a user serviceability inspection on the pistol, perform the following steps:

- Ensure the magazine release button is on the left side of the pistol for right-handed Marines, the right side of the pistol for left-handed Marines.
- Ensure the magazine seats into the magazine well when it is inserted and cannot be pulled out.
- Ensure the slide stays locked to the rear when the slide is pulled rearward with an empty magazine in the weapon.

- Ensure the magazine falls out freely when the magazine release button is depressed.
- Repeat the steps above with the second magazine.
- With the slide locked to the rear, lubricate the spring guide, the top of the barrel just forward of the front sight, and guide rails of the slide assembly behind the safety. With the muzzle pointed downward, work the slide several times and release.
- Visually inspect the external parts of the pistol to ensure there are no cracks or excessive wear.
- Perform a safety/function check of the pistol.

2012. Maintenance of the Pistol in Abnormal Conditions

Combat situations can place Marines in a variety of extreme weather conditions. To ensure the continued operation of the M9 service pistol, it is important to maintain the pistol properly in these conditions.

a. Extreme Cold

- When operating the pistol in extremely cold climates, clean and lubricate the pistol inside at room temperature, if possible.
- Apply a light coat of Lubricant Arctic Weather (LAW) to all functional parts.
- Always keep the pistol dry.
- To prevent freezing, keep the pistol covered when moving from a warm to a cold area. This will permit gradual cooling of the pistol.
- Do not lay a hot pistol in snow or on ice.
- Always keep snow out of the bore of the barrel. If snow should enter the bore, clean the bore before firing using a swab and cleaning rod.

b. Hot, Wet Climates

- Perform maintenance more frequently. Inspect hidden surfaces for corrosion. If corrosion is found, clean and lubricate.
- To help prevent corrosion, remove handprints with a clean cloth. Dry the pistol with a cloth and lubricate it with CLP.

- Check ammunition and magazines frequently for corrosion. Disassemble and clean the magazines with CLP and wipe dry with a clean cloth. If necessary, clean ammunition with a dry cloth.

c. Hot, Dry Climates

- Dust and sand can get into the pistol and cause stoppages and excessive wear on component contact surfaces during firing. Keep the pistol covered whenever possible.

- Corrosion is less likely to form on metal parts in a dry climate. Therefore, lightly lubricate internal working surfaces with CLP. Do not lubricate external parts of the pistol. Wipe excess lubricant from exposed surfaces. Do not lubricate internal components of the magazine.

d. Heavy Rain and Fording Operations

- Always attempt to keep the pistol dry.

- Drain any water from the barrel prior to firing. Dry the bore with a swab and cleaning rod.

- Generously lubricate internal and external surfaces of the pistol with CLP.

e. Amphibious Conditions. If the weapon comes into contact with salt water, clean the weapon as soon as possible. Wash the weapon with fresh water if time does not permit cleaning in accordance with TM 1005A-10/1.

Chapter 3
Weapons Handling

Weapons handling is a method of providing consistent and standardized procedures for handling, operating, and employing the M9 service pistol. Understanding and applying the principles of weapons handling are critical to developing safe and consistent weapons skills. Strict adherence to training and diligent practice will make weapons handling instinctive. Mission accomplishment and survival in combat depend on it.

Note
The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines should reverse directions as needed.

3001. Safety Rules

The four safety rules are the foundation for responsible weapons handling. These rules must be observed at all times whether in training or in combat.

a. Rule 1: Treat every weapon as if it were loaded. This rule is intended to prevent unintentional injury to personnel or damage to property from handling or transferring possession of a weapon. (See paragraph 3018 on transferring the pistol from one Marine to another.)

b. Rule 2: Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot. This rule enforces the importance of muzzle awareness and reinforces positive identification of the target.

c. Rule 3: Keep your finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire. When not firing, the trigger finger is straight along the receiver, outside of the trigger guard. This rule is intended to minimize the risk of firing the weapon negligently. This rule also reinforces positive identification of the target.

d. Rule 4: Keep weapon on safe until you intend to fire. This rule enforces the use of the weapon's own safety feature and reinforces positive identification of the target.

3002. Weapons Conditions

The M9 service pistol's level of readiness is defined by three specific conditions. The steps in the loading and unloading process take the weapon through the specific conditions which indicate the weapon's readiness for live fire. The Marine must understand and know the condition of his weapon at all times. The conditions for the M9 service pistol are:

a. Condition 1. Magazine inserted, round in chamber, slide forward, and safety on.

b. Condition 2. Not applicable to the M9 service pistol.

c. Condition 3. Magazine inserted, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety on.

d. Condition 4. Magazine removed, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety on.

3003. Determining a Weapon's Condition

There are two methods for determining the weapon's condition: checking the round indicator on the right side of the pistol, and conducting a chamber check.

a. Checking the Round Indicator. When there is a round in the chamber, the upper surface of the extractor protrudes from the right side of the slide. The protrusion can be felt by sliding either the thumb or the index finger of the left hand over the top of the slide and across the extractor. See figure 3-1.

Figure 3-1. Checking the Round Indicator.

b. Conducting a Chamber Check

- With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, grasp the pistol grip with the right hand.

Place the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and, with the thumb and index finger, grasp the forward end of the slide at the indendations under the front sight, behind the muzzle. See figure 3-2.

CAUTION
Ensure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.

Figure 3-2. Chamber Check - Placement of the Left Hand.

- Keeping the thumb in place around the backstrap of the pistol, rotate the fingers of the right hand over the top of the slide in front of the rear sight.

- Pull the slide to the rear by pushing forward with the right thumb and pulling back on the rear sight with the fingers. Use the left hand to steady the weapon and to assist in pulling the slide to the rear.

- Hold the slide to the rear with the right hand just enough to visually inspect the chamber for a round. Physically check for a round by inserting a finger of the right hand into the chamber area. See figure 3-3. At night or in low light conditions, the Marine will have to rely on the physical check with the finger to determine if a round is in the chamber.

Figure 3-3. Chamber Check.

CAUTION
Pulling the slide too far to the rear while inspecting the chamber may cause a double feed or the ejection of a round.

- Remove the finger from the chamber and release tension on both hands to allow the slide to go forward. Ensure the slide is all the way forward.

3004. Weapons Commands

Weapons commands direct the Marine to safely load, unload, and employ the M9 service pistol. Six commands are used in weapons handling.

a. "Load." This command is used to take a weapon from Condition 4 to Condition 3.

b. "Make Ready." This command is used to take a weapon from Condition 3 to Condition 1.

c. "Fire." This command is used to engage targets.

d. "Cease Fire." This command is used to cease target engagement.

e. "Unload." This command is used to take a weapon from any condition to Condition 4.

f. "Unload, Show Clear." This command is used to require a second individual to check the weapon to verify that no ammunition is present before the weapon is put into Condition 4.

3005. Loading the Pistol

Perform the following steps to load the pistol (take the pistol from Condition 4 to Condition 3):

- Ensure the pistol is on safe.

- With the right hand firmly gripping the pistol grip and the pistol pointed in a safe direction, bring the trigger guard to the right of eye level and cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck. Draw the right elbow in to facilitate control of the weapon.

- With the left hand, remove a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket. Index the magazine by sliding the index finger along the forward edge of the magazine. See figure 3-4.

Figure 3-4. Indexing the Magazine.

- Insert the filled magazine into the magazine well by guiding it with the index finger and, with the fingers extended, pushing it in with the heel of the hand until it is fully seated. Do not relinquish contact with the magazine until it is fully seated. See figure 3-5.

Figure 3-5. Seating the Magazine.

3006. Making the Pistol Ready

Perform the following steps to take the pistol from Condition 3 to Condition 1:

- Firmly grip the pistol grip with the right hand. Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and the slide is in its forward position.

- To facilitate pulling the slide to the rear, rotate the magazine well outboard. With the fingers and thumb of the left hand, grasp the serrated sides of the slide just forward of the safety. See figure 3-6a and 3-6b.

CAUTION
Ensure the muzzle does not cover the hand or fingers.

Figure 3-6a. Grasping the Slide to Make Ready (Right-Side View).

Figure 3-6b. Grasping the Slide to Make Ready (Left-Side View).

- Pull the slide to its rearmost position by pushing forward with the right hand while pulling back on the slide with the left hand.

- Release the slide. This will strip a round from the magazine and chamber it as the slide moves forward.
- Ensure the weapon remains on safe.

- Conduct a chamber check to ensure a round is in the chamber. (A chamber check may be conducted at any time to check the pistol's condition.)

3007. Fire

Perform the following steps to fire the pistol:

- With a straight trigger finger, take the weapon off safe with the right thumb.

- Place the trigger finger on the trigger and apply pressure to the trigger until the shot is fired.

3008. Cease Fire

Perform the following steps to stop firing the pistol:

- Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.

- Place the weapon on safe without breaking the grip of the right hand.
- Assume a carry or transport.

3009. Unloading the Pistol

Perform the following steps to take the pistol from any condition to Condition 4:

- With the right hand firmly gripping the pistol, ensure the pistol is on safe.
- Rotate the pistol so the magazine well is pointed inboard and angled down.

Note
The angle of the magazine well must facilitate the magazine falling freely from the well when the magazine release button is engaged.

- Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine from the pistol. Catch the magazine with the left hand and retain it.
- Push upward on the slide stop with the right thumb and maintain pressure. Rotate the weapon so the chamber is outboard.

Note
A left-handed Marine will push upward on the slide stop with the left index finger.

- Reach over the top of the pistol with the left hand and grasp the slide serrations with the thumb and index finger. The left hand should partially cover the ejection port so it is positioned to catch an ejected round.
- With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, fully retract the slide and lock it to the rear. At the same time, catch the ejected round with the left hand. See figure 3-7.

Figure 3-7. Catching the Ejected Round.

- Rotate the pistol so the inside of the chamber can be seen. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.

- Press the slide stop to release the slide and observe it going forward on an empty chamber.

3010. Unloading and Showing the Pistol Clear

Perform the following steps to take the pistol from any condition to Condition 4:

- With the right hand firmly gripping the pistol, ensure the pistol is on safe.

- Rotate the pistol so the magazine well is pointed inboard and angled down.

Note
The angle of the magazine well must facilitate the magazine falling freely from the well when the magazine release button is engaged.

- Depress the magazine release button to remove the magazine from the pistol. Catch the magazine with the left hand and retain it.

- Push upward on the slide stop with the right thumb and maintain pressure. Rotate the weapon so the chamber is outboard.

Note
A left-handed Marine will push upward on the slide stop with the left index finger.

- Reach over the top of the pistol with the left hand and grasp the slide serrations with the thumb abd index finger. The left hand should partially cover the ejection port so it is positioned to catch an ejected round.

- With the weapon pointed in a safe direction, fully retract the slide and lock it to the rear. At the same time, catch the ejected round with the left hand.

- Rotate the pistol so the inside of the chamber can be seen. Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty.

- Bring the pistol to the administrative transport and have a second party inspect the chamber to ensure no ammunition is present. See figure 3-8. The second individual:

  - Visually inspects the pistol's chamber to ensure it is empty, no ammunition is present, and the magazine is removed.

  - Ensures the weapon is on safe.

  - Acknowledges the pistol is clear.

- Press the slide stop to release the slide and observe it going forward on an empty chamber.

Figure 3-8. Unload, Show Clear.

3011. Emptying the Magazine

Once the weapon is unloaded, the pistol magazine can be emptied of ammunition. To empty the magazine, perform the following steps:

- Hold the magazine upright with the back of the magazine tube against the palm of the hand.
- Push the top round forward with the thumb and catch it with the other hand as it is removed.
- Repeat until the magazine is empty.

3012. Filling the Magazine

Prior to loading the weapon, the pistol magazine must be filled with the prescribed number of rounds of ammunition. To fill the magazine, perform the following steps:

- Hold the magazine with the back of the magazine against the palm of the hand and the follower up.
- With the other hand, place a round (primer end first) on the follower in front of the magazine lips.
- Press down on the round and slide the round completely back under the lips. The thumb or finger may push down on the back of the round to assist. The base of the round should be flush with the back of the magazine. See figure 3-9.

Figure 3-9. Filling the Magazine.

- Repeat this procedure until the magazine is filled with the appropriate number of rounds. Holes on the back of the magazine allow the visual counting of rounds in five-round increments.

3013. Reloading the Pistol

The ability to reload the pistol quickly will improve the Marine's chances for success on the battlefield.

a. Dry Reload. A dry reload is conducted when the pistol runs out of ammunition during engagement and the slide locks to the rear. To perform a dry reload with the slide locked to the rear, perform the following steps:

Note

The weapon is not placed on safe during a dry reload;
the trigger finger is taken out of the trigger guard
and placed straight along the side of the receiver.

- Seek cover, if the situation permits.

- While retaining the firing grip with the right hand, pull the pistol in close to the body to facilitate control. Bring the trigger guard to the right of eye level and cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck.

- Press the magazine release button and let the empty magazine fall to the deck. At the same time, unfasten the ammunition pocket to withdraw a filled magazine:

Note
The primary objective during a dry reload is to get the pistol back in action as quickly as possible. Following engagement, retain the magazine before moving.

  - Grasp the magazine by curling the middle finger and thumb of the left hand around the base of the magazine, with the index finger straight along the ammunition pocket.

  - As the magazine is being withdrawn from the pocket, the index finger should be along the front of the magazine. This is known as indexing the magazine.

  - Rotate the hand up so the magazine is aligned with the magazine well.

- With a quick glance at the magazine well, insert the magazine into the magazine well.

- While bringing the eyes back on target, seat the magazine with the heel of the left hand without relinquishing contact with the magazine.

- Roll both hands inward to establish a two-handed grip and press the slide release with the left thumb to allow the slide to move forward, chambering the first round, and present the weapon to the target.

Note
A left-handed Marine will press the slide release with his trigger finger.

b. Condition 1 Reload. In a Condition 1 reload, a partially filled magazine is removed from the pistol and replaced with a fully filled magazine. A Condition 1 reload is performed when there is a lull in the action or whenever deemed necessary by the Marine. To perform a Condition 1 reload:

- While retaining the firing grip with the right hand, pull the pistol in close to the body to facilitate control. Keep the weapon pointed in the direction of the likely threat. See figure 3-10.

Figure 3-10. Condition 1 Reload – Facilitating Control of Pistol.

- Withdraw a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket with the left hand. Index the magazine and bring it up to the left of eye level. See figure 3-11.

Figure 3-11. Condition 1 Reload - Withdrawing and Indexing a Filled Magazine.

- Slide the index finger to the side of the magazine to grasp the magazine between the index and middle fingers. See figure 3-12.

Figure 3-12. Condition 1 Reload – Grasping a Filled Magazine.

- Raise the pistol and bring the trigger guard to the right of eye level and cant the pistol so the magazine well is facing inboard at approximately a 45-degree angle to the deck.

Note

The angle of the magazine well must facilitate the magazine falling freely from the well when the magazine release button is engaged.

- Press the magazine release button with the right thumb to eject the partially filled magazine from the magazine well to grasp it between the index finger and thumb. See figure 3-13.

Figure 3-13. Condition 1 Reload - Removing a Partially Filled Magazine.

- Insert the filled magazine into the magazine well and using the heel of the hand, ensure it is fully seated. See figures 3-14 and 3-15.

Figure 3-14. Condition 1 Reload - Inserting a Filled Magazine.

Figure 3-15. Condition 1 Reload - Seating a Filled Magazine.

- Lower the pistol and point it in the direction of the likely threat.

- If time permits, examine the partially filled magazine to determine the number of rounds remaining. Stow the partially filled magazine in the ammunition pocket for later use.

c. Considerations for Reloading

(1) The first priority when performing a reload is to get the pistol reloaded and back into action.

(2) The second priority when performing a reload is to retain the magazine so when the Marine moves, the magazine moves with him.

(3) When time permits (i.e., Condition 1 reload), retain magazines securely (e.g., ammunition pocket, flak jacket). It requires discipline to retain all equipment.

(4) The combat situation may dictate dropping the magazine to the deck when performing a reload (i.e., dry reload). When possible, pick it up and retain it before moving to another location.

(5) Take cover before reloading, if possible. Always reload before leaving cover to take advantage of the protection.

(6) When reloading, the focus should be on reloading only. Do not focus on the enemy; focus for that instant second on the magazine change.

3014. Remedial Action

The M9 service pistol is an effective and extremely reliable weapon. Proper care and preventive maintenance will usually ensure the pistol's serviceability. Stoppages, while infrequent, do occur. To keep the weapon in action, stoppages must be cleared as quickly as possible through remedial action.

a. Stoppage. A stoppage is an unintentional interruption in the cycle of operation. An example of a stoppage is the slide not going fully forward. A stoppage is normally discovered when the pistol will not fire. Most stoppages can be prevented by proper care, cleaning, and lubrication of the pistol.

b. Malfunction. A malfunction is a failure of the pistol to fire satisfactorily or to perform as designed. A malfunction does not necessarily cause an interruption in the cycle of operation. An example of a malfunction is a broken front sight which does not affect the functioning of the weapon. When a malfunction occurs, the weapon must be repaired by an armorer.

c. Introduction to Remedial Action. There is no one set of procedures (i.e., immediate action) that can be performed to clear all or even most of the stoppages that can occur with the M9

service pistol. Therefore, with the pistol, the stoppage must be investigated and remedial action must be performed to clear it.

d. Shooter-induced Stoppages. Many stoppages of the M9 service pistol are caused by shooter error. The Marine must be aware of these shooter-induced stoppages so he can avoid making these mistakes and, if he does make a mistake, can quickly identify and remedy a problem and get his weapon back into action. Shooter-induced stoppages include:

(1) The shooter fails to make ready.

(2) The shooter fails to take the weapon off safe prior to firing.

(3) The shooter engages the safety while firing.

(4) The shooter engages the magazine release button while firing.

(5) The shooter engages the slide stop while firing. This is particularly prevalent when firing with an Isosceles grip.

(6) The shooter fails to reset the trigger.

(7) The shooter fails to recognize the weapon has run dry and the slide has locked to the rear.

e. Remedial Action Procedures. Remedial action requires investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation. When performing remedial action, the Marine should seek cover if the tactical situation permits. Once a weapon ceases firing, the Marine must visually or physically observe the weapon to identify the problem before it can be cleared. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on what is observed.

- Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
- Bring the weapon in close to the body and in a position to observe the chamber.
- Pull the slide to the rear while observing the chamber area to identify the stoppage. See figure 3-16.

Note
Ensure the weapon does not go on safe
when pulling the slide to the rear.

Figure 3-16. Remedial Action – Observing Chamber.

- Correct the stoppage:
  - If there is a round in the magazine but not in the chamber (see figure 3-17):

Figure 3-17. Remedial Action – Round in Magazine but Not in Chamber.

- Release the slide and observe a round being chambered.
- If you do not observe a round being chambered, tap the bottom of the magazine to seat it properly, and rack the slide to the rear. See figure 3-18.

Figure 3-18. Remedial Action – Round Not Being Chambered.

- If there is no round in the magazine or chamber, conduct a reload. See figure 3-19.
- Fire the weapon.

Figure 3-19. Remedial Action – No Round in Magazine or Chamber.

f. Indicator – Audible Pop or Reduced Recoil

WARNING

When an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced,
under no circumstances is remedial action performed.
An audible pop occurs when only a portion of the propel-
lant is ignited. It is normally identifiable by reduced
recoil and a lower report – the pistol will not cycle.
This is sometimes accompanied by excessive smoke escaping
from the chamber area.

(1) Training Environment. If an audible pop or reduced recoil is experienced during firing, immediately cease fire. Do not apply remedial action; instead, perform the following steps:

- Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
- Point the pistol down range.
- Place the pistol on safe.
- Raise a hand for assistance from range personnel.

(2) Combat Environment. The tactical situation may dictate correction of an audible pop or reduced recoil. To clear the pistol, perform the following steps:

- Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
- Seek cover if the tactical situation permits.
- Unload the pistol, but leave the slide locked to the rear.
- Insert something into the bore and clear the obstruction.
- Observe the barrel for cracks or bulges.
- Reload the weapon.

3015. Weapons Carries

As the threat level increases, so should the Marine's readiness for engagement. The weapons carries are designed to place the Marine in a state of increased readiness as the threat level increases. There are two carries with the pistol; the carries permit quick engagement when necessary.

a. Alert. The Alert is used when enemy contact is likely (probable). See figures 3-20. The Marine performs the following steps to assume the Alert:

Figure 3-20. Alert.

- Ensure the pistol is on safe.
- Grasp the pistil grip firmly with two hands. The trigger finger is straight and the right thumb is on the safety in a position to operate it.
- The arms may be extended down at approximately a 45-degree angle to the body or the elbows may be bent. Bending the elbows is particularly advantageous in close quarter environments for additional control when moving. See figures 3-21.
- The muzzle of the pistol is pointed in the likely direction of the threat.

Figure 3-21. Alert - Close Quarters.

b. Ready. The Ready is used when there is no target, but contact with the enemy is imminent. See figures 3-22. The Marine performs the following steps to assume the Ready:

- Ensure the pistol is on safe.
- Grasp the pistol firmly with two hands. The trigger finger is straight and the right thumb is on the safety in a position to operate it.
- Extend the arms and raise the pistol to just below eye level so a clear field of view is maintained.
- The muzzle of the pistol is pointed in the direction of enemy contact.

Figure 3-22. Ready.

3016. Weapons Transports

The M9 service pistol is transported in either the holster transport or the administrative transport.

a. Holster Transport. The holster transport is the most common method of carrying the pistol because it can be transported safely in the holster. This transport is used when there is no immediate threat (enemy contact remote). See figure 3-23. To transport the pistol in the holster:

- With the pistol pointed in a safe direction, ensure the safety is on, the slide is forward, and the trigger finger is straight.
- With the right hand firmly gripping the pistol grip, place the pistol in the holster:
  - Lift the flap of the holster with the left hand.
  - Look down at the holster, bring the pistol back to a position above the holster and rotate the muzzle down into the holster.

CAUTION
Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction at all times and does not cover any part of the body while holstering.

- Push the pistol snugly into the holster and fasten the flap with the right hand.

Figure 3-23. Holster Transport.

b. Administrative Transport. The administrative transport is used to transport the pistol when the Marine does not have a holster. See figure 3-24. The Marine performs the following steps to assume the administrative transport:

- Establish a firm grip around the pistol grip with the right hand.

- Ensure the pistol is on safe, the magazine is removed, the slide is locked to the rear, and the trigger finger is straight along the receiver.

- Bend the elbow to approximately a 45-degree angle so the pistol is positioned near shoulder level. The wrist should be straight so the muzzle of the weapon is pointing up.

Figure 3-24. Administrative Transport.

3017. Development of a Combat Mindset

The development of a combat mindset can be associated with the carries and holster transport for the pistol. The use of each carry/transport is dictated by the perceived level of threat. Each carry and transport should signify a stage of mental preparedness for combat. The intensity of the Marine's mental and physical preparation will depend on the likelihood of enemy contact. At this point, the physical techniques for assuming each carry/transport should be automatic, allowing the Marine to focus on the development of the appropriate level of mental preparation associated with each. The threat level should dictate the carry/transport used. As the carry/transport is assumed, the Marine should mentally prepare himself to engage a target.

a. No Immediate Threat. When there is no immediate threat, assume the Holster Transport. The pistol should be in Condition 1. In terms of mental preparation, this is the lowest level of awareness for the Marine in a combat environment. The Marine should be constantly alert and aware of any activity in his surroundings. To be prepared for target engagement at this level, the Marine must:

(1) Be aware of likely areas of enemy contact.

(2) Be aware of the condition of his pistol.

(3) Establish a plan or course of action to present the weapon to a target should a target appear.

(4) Mentally review appropriate actions such as reloading and remedial action.

b. Contact Likely (Probable). When enemy contact is likely (probable), assume the Alert. When enemy contact is likely the Marine should:

(1) Expect enemy contact and be constantly prepared to present the weapon.

(2) Search the entire area for indications of enemy targets and for suitable terrain features that offer cover and concealment. Avoid restricting the search to a single terrain feature because this will hinder an awareness of the Marine's sector of the battlefield and of likely enemy approach. Avoid tunnel vision.

(3) Be mentally prepared for contact. Plan a course of action for immediate response to a target. Modify the plan of action as the situation dictates.

(4) Be physically prepared to fire. Maintain proper balance at all times. Avoid self-induced physical fatigue. For example, do not grip the weapon so tightly that fingers, hands, and arms tire from carrying the weapon.

c. Contact Imminent. When contact with an enemy target is imminent, assume the Ready. In this carry the Marine should be at his highest level of awareness and should be constantly searching for and expecting a target. To fire well-aimed shots upon target detection, the Marine must be at the peak of his mental preparation. All distractions must be eliminated and his focus must be on firing an accurate shot. In the Ready, the Marine must:

(1) Keep the pistol oriented in the general direction of observation (eyes, muzzle, target).

(2) Maintain a clear field of view above the weapon sights until the target is detected.

(3) Be mentally and physically prepared to engage the target. The Marine must be ready to:

(a) Identify the target.

(b) Sweep the safety.

(c) Apply the fundamentals of marksmanship.

(4) Move only as fast as he is capable of delivering well-aimed shots. Ensure the speed of engagement does not exceed his physical abilities.

(5) Search the entire area for indications of enemy targets, lowering the pistol enough to observe a clear field of view of the area. Avoid tunnel vision.

3018. Transferring the Pistol

The Marine's ability to transfer a weapon to another Marine is critical to safe weapons handling. There are two methods for transferring the pistol from one Marine to another. Each is performed based on the operational environment/combat situation.

a. "Show Clear" Transfer. To transfer the weapon:

- While grasping the pistol firmly in the right hand, ensure the pistol is on safe.
- Remove and retain the magazine.
- Lock the slide to the rear and catch the round if there is a round in the chamber.
- Visually inspect the chamber to ensure it is empty and leave the slide locked to the rear.
    - If the other Marine is to the right: Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol. Release the firing grip.
    - If the other Marine is to the left: With the left hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the thumb over the slide and the fingers underneath. Release the firing grip.
- With the muzzle pointed up at a 45-degree angle in a safe direction and the chamber exposed, hand the pistol to the other Marine, grip first. See figure 3-25.

Figure 3-25. "Show Clear" Transfer.

- The other Marine:

- Grasps the pistol grip with the trigger finger straight along the receiver.
- Visually inspects the chamber to ensure it is empty.
- Ensures the pistol is on safe.

b. Condition Unknown Transfer. To transfer the weapon:

- While grasping the pistol firmly in the right hand, ensure the pistol is on safe.
  - If the other Marine is to the right: Cradle the trigger guard in the palm of the left hand and wrap the fingers around the top of the pistol. Release the firing grip. See figure 3-26.

Figure 3-26. Condition Unknown Transfer – to the Right.

  - If the other Marine is to the left: With the left hand, grasp the slide of the pistol with the thumb over the slide and the fingers underneath. Release the firing grip. See figure 3-27.

Figure 3-27. Condition Unknown – to the Left.

- With the muzzle pointed up at a 45-degree angle in a safe direction, hand the pistol to the other Marine, grip first.
- The other Marine:
  - Grasps the pistol grip with the trigger finger straight along the receiver.
  - Ensures the pistol is on safe.
  - Conducts a chamber check to determine the condition of the weapon.
  - If time permits, remove the magazine and count the number of rounds in the magazine by using the counting holes. Reinsert the magazine into the magazine well ensuring it is fully seated.

Chapter 4
Fundamentals of Pistol Marksmanship

The fundamentals of pistol marksmanship are aiming, trigger control, and breath control. Understanding and applying the basic pistol marksmanship fundamentals will ensure the Marine's effectiveness in target engagement. The fundamentals must be continually studied and practiced because they are the means by which accurate shots are placed on target. A Marine with a solid foundation in the fundamentals of marksmanship translates to success in combat.

4001. Aiming

Maintaining the correct relationship between the pistol sights is essential for accurate target engagement. Because of the short distance between the pistol sights, a small error in their alignment causes a considerable error at the target.

a. Sight Alignment. Sight alignment is the relationship between the front sight and rear sight with respect to the aiming eye. Correct sight alignment is the front sight centered in the rear sight notch with the top edge of the front sight level with the top edge of the rear sight. There should be equal space on either side of the front sight. See figure 4-1.

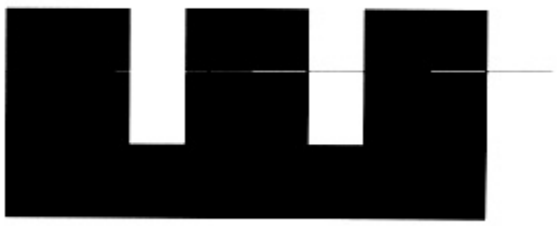

Figure 4-1. Sight Alignment.

b. Establishing Sight Alignment. The pistol is fired without benefit of bone support; therefore, the pistol is in constant motion. The Marine must recognize this and accept this movement, but continually strive for aligned sights. To fire accurately, the sights must be aligned when the shot breaks.

(1) Grip. The grip is key to acquiring sight alignment. If the grip is correct, the front and rear sights should be naturally aligned. Dry fire in presentation will aid in obtaining a grip that will allow sight alignment to be acquired consistently.

(2) Controlled Muscular Tension. There must be enough controlled muscular tension in the grip, wrists, and forearms to hold the weapon steady and level the pistol barrel to maintain sight alignment. Consistent tension allows the sights to be stabilized so sight alignment can be maintained

c. Sight Picture. Sight picture is the placement of the front sight in relation to the target while maintaining sight alignment. See figure 4-2.

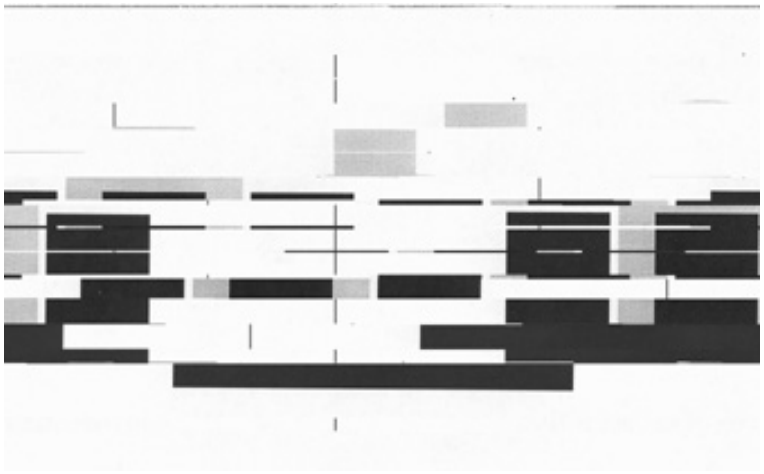

Figure 4-2. Sight Picture.

(1) Because the pistol is constantly moving, sight picture is acquired within an aiming area center mass on the target. Aiming area is defined as the movement of the sights on the target while maintaining sight alignment. Each individual must define an acceptable aiming area within his own capability to stabilize the sights. Time, distance to the target, and personal ability will dictate what this aiming area is. As proficiency is acquired, the aiming area will become more precise.

(2) The aiming area is based on the individual's stability of hold. A proper grip will stabilize the sights so sight alignment can be maintained, but the sights will continuously move within the aiming area on the target. The Marine must accept the movement he sees with the pistol and learn to apply trigger control as he is obtaining sight alignment/sight picture within the aiming area so the shot breaks the moment sight picture is established.

(3) Correct sight picture is the placement of the aligned sights within an acceptable aiming area.

d. Relationship Between the Eye and the Sights. The human eye can focus clearly on only one object at a time. The Marine must focus on the top edge of the front sight and fire the shot while maintaining the relationship between the front and rear sights within the aiming area. A focus on the top edge of the front sight rather than the target will allow the Marine to detect minor variations in sight alignment. The sight should be clear and distinct. The target will appear slightly blurred. Secondary vision allows the Marine to see the target and maintain sight picture within his aiming area.

4002. Trigger Control

Trigger control is the skillful manipulation of the trigger that causes the pistol to fire while maintaining sight alignment and sight picture. Proper trigger control aids in maintaining sight alignment while the shot is fired.

a. Sight Alignment and Trigger Control. Aiming and trigger control are mutually supportive--one cannot be performed without the other. As pressure is applied to the trigger, the sights may move, causing them to be misaligned. To be accurate, the sights must be aligned when the shot breaks. Trigger control can actually assist in aligning the sights. With proper trigger finger placement and consistent muscular tension applied to the grip, the sights can be controlled as the trigger is moved to the rear. If the sights move extensively while pressing the trigger, this is usually an indication of an improper grip or inconsistency in the muscular tension applied to the grip. Sight alignment and trigger control must be performed simultaneously to make an accurate shot.

b. Grip. A firm grip is essential for good trigger control. The grip is established before applying trigger control and is maintained throughout the shot-firing process. The hand is placed around the pistol grip in a location that allows the trigger finger to move the trigger straight to the rear while maintaining sight alignment. Once established, the grip should be firm enough to allow manipulation of the trigger while maintaining sight alignment. There must be equal to or more pressure applied to the grip than the pressure required to move the trigger to the rear. If not, the sights will move as the trigger is pressed to the rear.

c. Trigger Finger Placement. Once the grip is established, the finger is placed on the trigger. Placement of the finger should be natural and allow free movement of the trigger finger.

(1) A natural trigger finger placement allows the trigger to be moved straight to the rear while maintaining sight alignment. If the finger presses the trigger to the side, it can cause an error in sight alignment and shot placement.

(2) Each Marine must experiment with finger placement to select an effective placement on the trigger that allows the trigger to be consistently moved straight to the rear while maintaining sight alignment.

d. Types of Trigger Control. There are two types of trigger control:

(1) Uninterrupted Trigger Control. Using this method, the Marine applies a steady, unchanging pressure to the trigger until the shot is fired. Uninterrupted trigger control is particularly effective at close range, when the target area is large, and stability of hold is not as critical to accuracy. To apply uninterrupted trigger control, apply pressure on the trigger while maintaining focus on the top edge of the front sight. Continue pressure on the trigger to begin moving the trigger straight to the rear while obtaining sight alignment and sight picture. Move the trigger straight to the rear in a single, smooth motion with no hesitation.

(2) Interrupted Trigger Control. Interrupted trigger control is particularly effective at longer ranges, when the target is small, and stability of hold is critical to maintaining sight picture in the aiming area. This method is used if the pistol sights move outside the aiming area when applying trigger control.

- Using this method, the Marine applies initial pressure to the trigger to begin rearward movement.
- If the sight picture is outside the aiming area, the Marine stops and holds the rearward movement on the trigger until sight picture is reestablished.
- When sight picture is reestablished, the rearward movement of the trigger is continued until the shot is fired.

4003. Breath Control

Breathing causes movement of the chest, abdomen, and shoulders, which causes the pistol sights to move vertically while attempting to aim and fire. Therefore, it is necessary to stop breathing for a period of time while firing a shot or a series of shots. Breath control allows the sights to be stabilized while firing a shot.

- The object of breath control is to stop breathing just long enough to fire the shot while maintaining sight alignment and establishing sight picture. The breath should be held at the same point in the breathing cycle, i.e., the natural respiratory pause, to be consistent.
- Breathing should not be stopped for too long because it can have an adverse effect, both visually and physically. Holding the breath longer than is comfortable will result in a lack of oxygen, causing vision to deteriorate and affecting the ability to focus on the sights.

4004. Application of Marksmanship Fundamentals in Field Firing

a. Compression of the Fundamentals. Pistol engagements are characterized by close distances and short duration. Because of the requirement for immediate response to a threat, the application of the fundamentals must be developed to a level where they are applied as a conditioned response, in compressed time.

(1) The time required to move the trigger to the rear while acquiring and maintaining sight alignment/sight picture is unique to each Marine based on his capabilities.

(2) The ultimate goal in target engagement is to apply the fundamentals of marksmanship and fire the shot the moment presentation of the weapon is complete.

(3) Each Marine should know his abilities and fire only as quickly as he is capable of firing accurately. He must not exceed his shooting skills in an effort to get rounds off quickly.

b. Aiming

(1) Sight Alignment/Sight Picture. In field firing, the fundamentals are applied in a compressed time so sight alignment and sight picture are achieved as the shot is fired. Although the target must be quickly engaged in combat, sight alignment is still the first priority. Strive for a clear front sight.

(2) Sight Alignment as it Relates to Distance to the Target and Size of the Target. As the distance to the target increases and the size of the target decreases, sight alignment becomes more critical to target engagement. Sight alignment is also more critical to engagement of smaller targets such as partially exposed targets.

(a) Sight alignment is always the goal. However, as the distance to the target decreases, perfect sight alignment is not as critical. For example, at distances of 7 yards or less, a deviation in sight alignment can still produce an accurate shot. However, to be accurate there must be a relationship between the sights and their placement on the target within the aiming area.

(b) At greater distances and when engaging smaller targets, sight alignment and sight picture are more critical for target engagement and should not be compromised for speed.

c. Trigger Control. Proper trigger control aids in maintaining sight alignment while the shot is fired. As pressure is applied to the trigger, the sights may move, causing them to be misaligned. As the Marine applies pressure to the trigger, he should be constantly realigning the sights. Sight alignment and trigger control must be performed simultaneously to make an accurate shot.

d. Breath Control. In combat, the Marine's breathing and heart rate will often be increased due to physical exertion or the stress of battle. The key to breath control in field firing is to stop breathing just long enough to fire an accurate shot or a series of shots.

Chapter 5
Pistol Firing Positions and Grip

The M9 service pistol is fired from the standing, kneeling, and prone positions. Each firing position may be adapted to either a Weaver or Isosceles variation. The Weaver and Isosceles positions have distinct advantages in combat: The Weaver variation has a distinct advantage in stabilizing the pistol sights; the Isosceles variation has a distinct advantage in managing recoil. The advantages apply whether the Marine is firing in the standing, kneeling, or prone position. The Marine must be able to select and assume a stable firing position that provides a solid foundation for accurate shooting while meeting the demands of the combat situation

Note
The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines should reverse directions as needed.

5001. Selecting a Pistol Firing Position

In combat, the Marine must select a firing position based on considerations of mobility, observation of the enemy, and stability.

a. Mobility. A firing position must provide mobility should the Marine need to move. The standing position permits maximum mobility because it can be quickly assumed and easily maneuvered from and it permits lateral mobility to engage widely dispersed targets. The prone position provides limited mobility because it is the most time consuming position to get into and out of and it lacks lateral mobility to engage dispersed targets.

b. Observation of the Enemy. A firing position should allow observation of the enemy while minimizing the Marine's exposure. In combat, there can be many obstructions to a clear field of view. Terrain features such as vegetation, earth contours, and man-made structures can often dictate the firing position. The prone position normally allows the least exposure, but it usually provides a limited field of view. Kneeling may provide a wider field of view, but generally provides less concealment.

c. Stability. A solid firing position establishes a stable foundation for target engagement. A firing position must provide maximum stability while firing. A good firing position provides a stable platform for accurate and consistent shooting. The definition of a stable position is one in which the body is positioned so as to resist forces tending to cause motion (i.e., recoil and movement of the weapon sights). The standing position is the least stable firing position, while the prone is the most stable firing position.

(1) Purpose of Stability. A consistent, stable position is assumed for two distinct purposes:

(a) Minimize Movement of the Weapon Sights. A pistol firing position must be stabilized to minimize movement of the weapon sights so an accurate shot can be fired. A stable firing position enables the weapon's sights to be controlled to deliver accurate fire on a target.

(b) Minimize the Affects of Recoil. A pistol firing position must be stabilized to minimize the affects of recoil for recovery of the sights to the same area on the target. In combat, it may be necessary to engage the same target more than once to eliminate it. If the firing position is stable, the pistol sights should recover to the same area on the target, allowing rapid reengagement. Distributing the body's weight to balance the position will stabilize it and allow better management of recoil.

(2) Controlled Muscular Tension. A pistol firing position is stabilized through controlled muscular tension. Because the pistol is fired without benefit of bone support, muscular tension is needed in the body to stabilize the position and the weapon sights.

(a) A consistent amount of muscular tension is needed to hold the weapon steady so the sights can be aligned with the aiming eye and the target.

(b) Controlled and consistent tension in the body allows the Marine to offer resistance to manage recoil and bring the sights back on target quicker. Controlled muscular tension can reduce the effects of recoil by making it more manageable.

(c) Too much tension, however, can cause strain or produce additional movement by trembling.

(d) Muscular tension is correct when the Marine can control the pistol before, during, and after firing the shot.

5002. Purpose of a Pistol Firing Grip

Key to a pistol firing position is the firing grip. A proper grip is one that provides maximum control of the pistol before, during, and after firing.

a. A Proper Grip Must Stabilize the Weapon Sights Before Firing. To fire an accurate shot, the pistol sights must be stabilized prior to and as the bullet exits the muzzle of the weapon.

(1) A proper grip controls the alignment of the weapon sights and stabilizes the sights so an accurate shot may be fired.

(2) To have a proper grip, there must be muscular tension in the wrist and forearms. Consistent muscular tension in the wrist, forearms, and grip helps maintain sight alignment by reducing the movement in the grip that can cause movement in the weapon sights. The grip is correct when it allows the pistol sights to be naturally aligned to the aiming eye.

(3) When establishing a two-handed grip, equal pressure must be applied with both hands. Consistent, equal pressure from both hands will stabilize the weapon sights and allow them to be aligned and level with respect to the aiming eye.

b. A Proper Grip Must Allow Trigger Control to be Applied During Firing. The grip should provide a foundation for the movement of the trigger finger. The trigger finger must apply positive pressure on the trigger as an independent action, completely free of the other muscles of the gripping hand. There should not be excessive pressure on the web of the hand on the backstrap of the pistol because it will interfere with the manipulation of the trigger by the trigger finger.

c. A Proper Grip Must Manage Recoil After Firing. Once a shot is fired, the pistol recoils, disturbing alignment of the sights. A proper grip must facilitate a quick recovery from recoil so the sights quickly return to the same area on the target.

(1) The amount the muzzle climbs during recoil depends on the amount of controlled muscular tension in the grip and wrists applied to stabilize the weapon and create consistency in resistance to recoil. Controlled muscular tension allows the weapon sights to recover consistently back on target within a minimum amount of time.

(2) Equal pressure must be applied to the grip with both hands because recoil will travel where there is least resistance and the sights will not return to the same area on the target. Firm pressure ensures the pistol does not slip during recoil.

(3) An improper grip or lack of controlled muscular tension will cause the pistol to move in the Marine's hand after the shot is fired, disrupting sight alignment and requiring the Marine to reestablish his grip.

5003. Withdrawing the Pistol from the Holster

The firing grip is not established in the holster, however, a proper firing grip can be established if the weapon is withdrawn from the holster correctly. The weapon should be withdrawn from the holster in one continuous, fluid motion:

- Place the heel of the left hand at the center of the torso with the fingers extended toward the target. At the same time, unfasten and release the D-ring with the right hand. See figure 5-1.

Note
The left hand should be placed on the torso in a position that allows a two-handed firing grip to be established in a minimum amount of movement.

Figure 5-1. Withdrawing the Pistol from the Holster.

- With the right hand, place the thumb on the forward edge of the lower portion of the holster and the fingers around the back edge of the holster, keeping the trigger finger straight. See figure 5-2.

Note
The left hand may assist in holding the holster flap up.

Figure 5-2. Withdrawing the Pistol from the Holster (Cont.).

- Slide the hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip. At the same time, keep the thumb above the pistol to guide the holster flap up. See figure 5-3.

Figure 5-3. Withdrawing the Pistol from the Holster (Cont.).

- Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers and draw the pistol straight up. Continue withdrawing the weapon while moving the thumb to a position on the safety. See figure 5-4.

Figure 5-4. Withdrawing the Pistol from the Holster (Cont.).

Note

This hand placement allows a firing grip to be established once the thumb disengages the safety. Any adjustments made to the firing grip after the safety is disengaged should be minor.

- Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward to clear the body. Ensure the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction.

- Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the left hand with the right hand in the front of the torso. See figure 5-5.

Figure 5-5. Withdrawing the Pistol from the Holster (Cont.).

CAUTION
Ensure the muzzle does not cover the left hand when establishing the two-handed grip.

5004. Advantages and Disadvantages of the Weaver and Isosceles Positions

a. Firing Position Variations. There are two variations of each firing position that can be used to establish a solid position and maximize control of the weapon: a Weaver variation and an Isosceles variation. A firing position is chosen based on the combat situation and the individual's body configuration. The position chosen must permit balance, control, and stability during firing.

(1) The application of the firing position variation is the same whether in the standing, kneeling, or prone position.

(2) There is a specific firing grip that supports each variation; the grip is the key to establishing the variation.

b. Selecting a Weaver or Isosceles Position. The size of the target, distance to the target, time, and type of engagement needed (i.e., two shots, single precision shot) are important factors to consider when deciding whether to fire in the Weaver or Isosceles firing position.

(1) Weaver Variation. The Weaver variation is effective at any distance, however, some aspects of the position make it more effective for long range or precision shots on small or partially exposed targets.

(a) Long-Range Engagement/Partially Exposed Targets. At longer ranges, the target is smaller and a more precise shot is required to eliminate the target. Even at closer ranges, a precision shot may be required to engage a partially exposed target. Because sight alignment and sight picture are more critical to accuracy, stability of hold is a bigger factor in precision and long-range engagements. A small movement will move the sights off the target so the weapon must be steadied.

(b) Advantage - Stability of Hold. The Weaver variation provides additional balance, control, and stability of hold during firing due to the placement of the arms; the left arm is bent and the pistol is in closer to the body. Therefore, it is generally easier to maintain sight picture using the Weaver variation because it is easier to hold the weapon steady.

(c) Disadvantage - Management of Recoil. Recoil has a larger effect on the Weaver variation due to the hand placement on the pistol; some of the pistol grip is exposed and pressure is applied in two different directions around the pistol. Recoil will travel to the path of least resistance. Therefore, recovery of the sights back on target may take longer in the Weaver variation. This factor may make the Weaver variation less effective at short ranges for quick engagement than the Isosceles variation.

(2) Isosceles Variation. The Isosceles variation is effective at any distance, however, some aspects of the position make it more effective for close range engagements. When confronted with a target, the natural physical reaction is to face the target and push out with the arms. This makes the Isosceles variation advantageous for quick engagements at close range.

(a) Short-Range Engagement. When a target is at short range, it must be engaged quickly before it engages the Marine. The management of recoil is a bigger factor in short-range engagements because it is more likely that multiple shots will be fired to eliminate the target and the sights have to recover quickly back on target. However, at close ranges the target is larger so stability of hold is not as important because it is easier to hold the sights on target and sight picture is not as critical.

(b) Advantage - Management of Recoil. In the Isosceles variation, muscular tension and grip pressure are evenly distributed around the pistol, causing the effects of recoil to be less than in the Weaver variation and allowing quicker recovery of the sights on target. This makes the Isosceles variation effective for firing multiple shots.

(c) Disadvantage - Stability of Hold. The stability of hold is degraded in the Isosceles variation due to the weapon being further from the body without support. This makes acquiring sight picture more difficult because it is harder to steady the weapon. This factor may make the Isosceles variation less effective than the Weaver variation at long ranges and for precision shots on a small target.

5005. Standing Position

The standing position is often employed in pistol engagements due to the short distance of engagement and the nature of combat. When properly assumed, the standing position provides a stable base for firing, a clear field of view, and excellent mobility. The standing position can be adapted to either the Weaver variation or the Isosceles variation.

a. Weaver Standing Position. Key to the Weaver variation is the body's angle to the target and the "push-pull" pressure applied to the grip. To assume the Weaver standing position:

- Face the target and make a half turn right, keeping the weapon oriented to the target. This orients the body at approximately a 40-60 degree angle oblique to the target. The shoulders are angled to the target, the left shoulder forward of the right. The feet are about shoulder width apart, the left foot forward of the right.

- Firmly grip the pistol with the right hand on the pistol grip. Place the right thumb on the safety in a position to operate it.

- Keeping the shoulders at a 40-60 degree angle oblique to the target, raise the right arm and extend it across the body toward the target. Ensure the right shoulder does not roll forward or turn toward the target.

- Extend the left arm to the target, bending the left elbow to join the left and right hands. The left elbow should be inverted and tucked in toward the body so the left arm supports the weapon.

Note
The angle of the body will determine
how much the elbow bends.

- Establish a two-handed firing grip in the Weaver variation (see figure 5-6):

  - Place the palm of the left hand over the front of the right hand so the palm covers the curled fingers of the right hand. The trigger guard should rest in the "V" formed by the left thumb and forefinger. The knuckles of the left hand should be just outboard of the trigger guard. A portion of the pistol grip should be exposed.

  - Rest the trigger finger naturally, straight and outside of the trigger guard, so the finger can be moved quickly and easily to the trigger.

  - The left thumb rests against the receiver so both thumbs are on the left side of the pistol. Once the safety is disengaged with the right thumb, the left thumb should be placed over the right thumb and positive pressure should be applied to hold the right thumb in place.

- Apply rearward pressure with the left hand and forward pressure with the right hand to achieve a "push-pull" grip. Isometric tension (push-pull) stabilizes the weapon during firing.

Figure 5-6. Weaver Grip.

- Lean slightly forward and apply muscular tension throughout the body to stabilize the position and better manage recoil. The muscular tension in the upper body will not be symmetrical due to the “push-pull” tension applied on the grip. See figure 5-7.

- Keep the head erect so the aiming eye can look through the sights.

Figure 5-7. Weaver Standing Position.

b. Isosceles Standing Position. Key to the Isosceles variation is the body squared to the target and equal pressure applied on the pistol from the grip. To assume the Isosceles standing position:

- Face the target with the feet approximately shoulder width apart. The shoulders are squared to the target.

- Establish a two-handed firing grip in the Isosceles variation (see figure 5-8):

  - Firmly grip the pistol with the right hand on the pistol grip. Place the right thumb on the safety in a position to operate it.

  - Place the heel of the left hand on the exposed portion of the pistol grip in the pocket formed by the fingertips and heel of the right hand. There should be maximum contact between the pistol grip and the hands. Wrap the fingers of the left hand over the fingers of the right hand. Ensure both thumbs rest on the left side of the pistol and point toward the target.

  - Apply equal pressure on both sides of the pistol to allow for the best management of recoil.

Note
Ensure the left thumb does not apply excessive pressure to the slide stop or the slide.

  - Rest the trigger finger naturally, straight and outside of the trigger guard, so the finger can be moved quickly and easily to the trigger.

Note
The index finger of the left hand may or may not rest on the front of the trigger guard.

Figure 5-8. Isosceles Grip.

- Elevate and extend the arms toward the target.

- Roll the shoulders forward and shift the body weight slightly forward to stabilize the position and better manage recoil. The left foot may be slightly forward of the right foot to balance the position. There should be an equal amount of muscular tension on both sides of the body to best manage recoil.

- Tuck the head between the shoulders; the head is extended forward but kept erect so the aiming eye can see through the sights. See figure 5-9.

Figure 5-9. Isosceles Standing Position.

5006. Kneeling Position

The kneeling position offers a smaller exposure than the standing position and greater stability. Increased stability makes the kneeling position effective for longer range shooting. It does not, however, offer as much mobility for quick reaction as the standing position. The kneeling position can be quickly assumed and it allows firing from various types of cover. There are four variations of the kneeling position that provide varying degrees of observation of the enemy. Depending on the cover and the need for observation, the kneeling position may be adapted to: a high kneeling, a medium kneeling, a low kneeling, or a two-kneed kneeling position.

a. Weaver Kneeling Position. The Weaver variation of the kneeling position offers an advantage in providing bone support due to the left elbow's placement on the knee. The Weaver variation further enables firing from the side of cover while exposing less of the body to a threat. To assume the Weaver kneeling position:

- Make a half turn to the right, drop the right foot back or step forward with the left foot, and place the right knee on the deck. The body should be positioned at a 40-60 degree angle oblique to the target.

- Blade the shoulders at a 40-60 degree angle oblique to the target, the left shoulder forward of the right.

- Extend the arms toward the target.

- Bend forward at the waist to better manage recoil.

- Place the flat part of the upper left arm, just above the elbow, in firm contact with the flat surface formed on top of the bent knee. The point of the left elbow extends just slightly past the left knee. However, depending on the need for stability or observation of the enemy, the elbow does not have to rest on the knee.

(1) High Kneeling. To assume the high kneeling variation, the toes of the right foot are curled and in contact with the deck, or the inside of the foot may be in contact with the deck. Depending on the need for observation, the buttocks may or may not rest on the right heel. The left leg is bent at the knee; the shin straight up and down. The left foot is flat on the deck. See figure 5-10.

Figure 5-10. Weaver High Kneeling.

(2) Medium Kneeling. To assume the medium kneeling variation, the right ankle is straight with the foot stretched out and the bootlaces in contact with the deck. The left leg is bent at the knee; the left foot flat on the deck. The right shin may be angled to the body to create a tripod of support for the position. See figure 5-11.

Figure 5-11. Weaver Medium Kneeling.

(2) Low Kneeling. To assume the low kneeling variation, the right ankle is turned so the outside of the foot is in contact with the deck and the buttocks are in contact with the inside of the foot. The right shin may be angled to the body to create a tripod of support for the position. See figure 5-12.

Figure 5-12. Weaver Low Kneeling.

(3) Two-Kneed. To assume the two-kneed variation, drop both knees onto the deck. The toes may be curled to get into and out of the position quickly. Depending on the need for observation of the enemy, the buttocks may or may not rest on the heels. See figure 5-13.

Figure 5-13. Weaver Two-Kneed Kneeling.

b. Isosceles Kneeling Position. The Isosceles variation offers an advantage in enabling the Marine to fire over the top of cover while exposing less of the body to a threat. To assume the Isosceles kneeling position:

- Drop the right foot back or step forward with the left foot, and place the right knee on the deck.

- Square the shoulders to the target.
- Extend the arms toward the target.
- Lean forward with the shoulders rolled forward and the head tucked between the shoulders to better manage recoil.

(1) High Kneeling. To assume the high kneeling variation, the toes of the right foot are curled and in contact with the deck, or the inside of the foot may be in contact with the deck. Depending on the need for observation, the buttocks may or may not rest on the right heel. The left leg is bent at the knee; the shin straight up and down. The left foot is flat on the deck. See figure 5-14.

Figure 5-14. Isosceles High Kneeling.

(2) Medium Kneeling. To assume the medium kneeling variation, the right ankle is straight with the foot stretched out and the bootlaces in contact with the deck. The left leg is bent at the knee; the left foot flat on the deck. The right shin may be angled to the body to create a tripod of support for the position. See figure 5-15.

Figure 5-15. Isosceles Medium Kneeling.

(3) Low Kneeling. To assume the low kneeling variation, the right ankle is turned so the outside of the foot is in contact with the deck and the buttocks are in contact with the inside of the foot. The right shin may be angled to the body to create a tripod of support for the position. See figure 5-16.

Figure 5-16. Isosceles Low Kneeling.

(4) Two-Kneed. To assume the two-kneed variation, drop both knees onto the deck. The toes may be curled to get into and out of the position quickly. Depending on the need for observation of the enemy, the buttocks may or may not rest on the heels. See figure 5-17.

Figure 5-17. Isosceles Two-Kneed.

5007. Prone Position

The prone position offers many advantages in that it is easily assumed, stable, and it presents a small target to the enemy. Since the prone position places most of the body on the deck, it offers great stability for long range shooting. However, it is the least mobile of the firing positions and may restrict the field of view for observation. The prone position can be adapted to either the Weaver variation or the Isosceles variation.

a. Weaver Prone Position. The Weaver variation of the prone position produces a cocked leg position by angling the body to the target and cocking the leg to support the position. The Weaver prone is ideal for firing from behind cover. See figure 5-18. To assume the Weaver prone position:

Figure 5-18. Weaver Prone Position.

- Face the target and make a half turn to the right (this places the body at a 40-60 degree oblique to the target). Grip the pistol in the right hand, placing the pistol in a position that facilitates control of the weapon. Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and does not cover any portion of the body.

- Get the body on the deck by using either the squat or drop method. In both methods, keep the body at a 40-60 degree oblique to the target.

  - **Squat Method.** Squat down and place the left hand on the deck. Kick both feet backward and come down on the right side of the body with the right arm extended toward the target. Ensure the pistol does not cover the body or the left hand. See figure 5-19.

Figure 5-19. Squat Method.

  - **Drop Method.** Drop to a kneeling position, place the left hand on the deck in front of the body, push the pistol out toward the target, and roll the right side of the body onto the deck. Ensure the pistol does not cover the body or the left hand. See figures 5-20 and 5-21.

Figure 5-20. Drop Method.

Figure 5-21. Drop Method (Cont.).

- Bring the left knee up to support the firing position and to raise the diaphragm off the deck so as not to interfere with breathing. The inside of the knee rests on the deck. The knee should be drawn up to provide maximum stability for the position.

- Establish a two handed-firing grip on the pistol. Place the left elbow on the ground for stability. For maximum stability in the prone position, strive to keep the grip firmly placed on the deck.

- The head may rest against the right arm so the pistol sights can be aligned. The head may be canted as long as the aiming eye can look directly through the sights. Strive to keep the pistol sights as level as possible while acquiring sight alignment.

- To make minor increases in elevation, keep the left hand in place firmly on the deck, and raise the right hand to achieve the desired elevation, but maintain contact between the right and left hands to stabilize the weapon. See figure 5-22. (There is a tradeoff between getting the elevation needed and losing stability, so the Marine must strike a balance between the two.)

Figure 5-22. Increasing Elevation (Minor Adjustments).

b. Isosceles Prone Position. The Isosceles variation of the prone position produces a straight leg position. See figure 5-23. To assume the Isosceles prone position:

Figure 5-23. Isosceles Prone Position.

- Stand facing the target. Grip the pistol in the right hand, placing the pistol in a position that facilitates control of the weapon. Ensure the pistol is pointed in a safe direction and does not cover any portion of the body.

- Get the body to the deck by using either the squat or drop method.

  - **Squat Method.** Squat down and place the left hand on the deck. Kick both feet backward and come down on the right side of the body with the right arm extended toward the target. Ensure the pistol does not cover the body or the left hand. See figure 5-24.

Figure 5-24. Squat Method.

- **Drop Method.** Drop to a kneeling position, place the left hand on the deck in front of the body, push the pistol out toward the target, and roll the right side of the body onto the deck. Ensure the pistol does not cover the body or the left hand. See figures 5-25 and 5-26.

Figure 5-25. Drop Method.

Figure 5-26. Drop Method (Cont.).

- Establish a two-handed firing grip on the pistol.
- Spread the legs to a position that provides maximum stability. The insteps of both feet may be flat on the deck or the toes may be curled and dug into the deck.
- Keep the pistol sights as level as possible while acquiring sight alignment. Keep the head in a position to allow the aiming eye to look directly through the sights.
    - When wearing a helmet, the head may be canted slightly and rest against the right arm to push the helmet from the eyes so the sights can be aligned.
    - Likewise, the weapon may be canted outboard to allow the aiming eye to look directly through the sights.
- To make minor increases in elevation, keep the left hand in place firmly on the deck, and raise the right hand to achieve the desired elevation, but maintain contact between the right and left hands to stabilize the weapon. See figure 5-27. (There is a tradeoff between getting the elevation needed and losing stability, so the Marine must strike a balance between the two.)

Figure 5-27. Increasing Elevation (Minor Adjustments).

5008. Natural Body Alignment

The body must be properly aligned to the target so when the pistol is presented, the sights fall naturally on the target. It takes a combination of body alignment and consistent muscular tension to ensure the sights fall naturally to the same area on the target every time the weapon is presented. The Marine can check his natural body alignment to ensure his sights are centered on his aiming area.

- Orient the body to a target and establish a variation of the standing position and a two-handed firing grip on the pistol. Aim in on the target.
- Close the eyes and take a deep breath.
- Open the eyes and see where the pistol sights are in relation to the target. If the pistol sights are right or left of the target:
  - Move the feet to adjust the position right or left.
  - Do not force the weapon sights onto the target area by moving the arms; this will increase the muscular tension on one side of the body, disturbing balance and making recoil harder to manage.
- If the pistol sights are significantly out of alignment when the weapon is at eye level, it may be an indication of a poor grip. When the grip is correct, to include the muscular tension in the grip, wrist, and forearms, the pistol sights should be aligned to the point that only minor adjustments are needed to align the sights to the aiming eye.

- Repeat these steps. Body alignment and muscular tension are correct when the sights are naturally placed in the same area on the target every time the Marine aims in on the target.

Chapter 6
Use of Cover and Concealment

On the battlefield, a firing position that allows maximum observation of the enemy as well as cover and concealment is a necessity. A good position will provide a solid foundation for the pistol, maximize the use of cover to provide protection from enemy fire, allow mobility, and provide observation of the enemy. Where possible, the cover should be used to provide additional support for the position.

Note
The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines must reverse directions as needed.

6001. Selection of Cover and Concealment

a. Cover. Cover is anything that provides protection from enemy fire. When contact with the enemy is made, it is important to seek cover as quickly as possible. Cover should be, at a minimum:

(1) Thick enough to stop small arms fire.

(2) High enough to protect the Marine when firing from behind cover.

b. Concealment. Concealment is anything that hides a Marine from enemy view; it might not afford protection. Concealment can be provided by brush, trees, etc.

c. Cover Materials. Natural cover (rocks, logs, rubble, etc.) is best because it is hard to detect. But good cover also includes buildings, structures, etc. Any material that may protect an individual from small arms fire should be used for cover. The best type of cover is dirt packed to a minimum thickness of 18 inches. Some other common types of cover material are:

(1) Cinder Blocks. Cinder blocks used as foundations for houses or walls are not impenetrable cover. Although they are made of a dense material, they are brittle and can shatter upon impact from small arms fire, causing injury by secondary fragmentation.

(2) Trees/Logs/Telephone Poles. Wood is a relatively dense material and offers good covering protection. Bullets have a tendency to fragment when they penetrate wood. Live trees have a greater resistance to bullet penetration than dead wood. Wood that has been treated with creosote, such as telephone poles and railroad ties, offers better protection from projectiles than untreated wood; but still does not ensure positive protection from small arms fire.

(3) Sandbags. Sandbags can be used for cover. Tests have shown that bullets more easily penetrate sandbags that are loosely filled or moist. The water in moist dirt and sand allows the bullet to travel easier; loosely packed dirt and sand contains pockets of air for the bullet to travel through. If sandbags are tamped down, their density is increased. Sandbags should always be tightly packed. Doubling or overlapping sandbags increases the protection.

6002. Considerations for Firing from Cover

The effective use of cover will enable engagement of enemy targets while affording protection from enemy fire. Cover can be effectively used to conceal the Marine from enemy view while searching for targets. There are several considerations to keep in mind when firing from cover.

a. Adjustment of the Firing Position. Cover should provide additional support for the position. The firing position must be adjusted behind cover to ensure stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy.

(1) The firing position will depend on the Marine's height in relation to the height of the cover. The firing position must minimize exposure to the enemy but allow observation of the area.

(2) Even though support is used, continue to apply the same amount of muscular tension in the grip, wrist, and forearms. Muscular tension is still necessary to stabilize the weapon sights and manage recovery.

(3) Because the sights are higher than the muzzle of the weapon, the Marine must ensure that the muzzle of the weapon clears the cover as he obtains sight alignment/sight picture on the target. The closer the Marine is to the cover, the easier it is to ensure the muzzle clears the cover.

b. Application of the Weaver and Isosceles Variations. The type of cover may dictate which variation of a firing position will be the most effective. The position should provide the Marine with the maximum amount of stability and control and allow the Marine to manage recoil effectively to recover on target.

(1) Weaver Variation. The weaver variation exposes less of the body from behind cover due to the angle of the body. The Weaver variation may be better suited for firing from behind the right or left side of cover. For instance, the Weaver prone is ideal for firing from behind a log.

(2) Isosceles Variation. The Isosceles variation is good for firing over the top of cover (e.g., a window). The Isosceles prone is ideal for firing from behind narrow cover (e.g., a telephone pole).

c. Keeping the Entire Body Behind Cover. Avoid inadvertent exposure of any part of the body. Be especially aware of the top of the head, elbows, knees, or any other body part that may extend beyond the cover.

(1) Log/Curb. When firing from behind a log or curb, the Marine must present the lowest possible silhouette, and may use the log/curb for maximum support of the position. For maximum protection, muzzle clearance is kept as close as possible to the top of the log/curb. Firing can be done from either side or top of the log depending on cover and concealment. See figure 6-1. The Marine will fire over the top of a curb when it is used for cover.

Figure 6-1. Firing Around a Log.

(2) Wall or Barricade. Firing is done from either side or over the top of a wall or barricade. See figure 6-2.

Figure 6-2. Firing From a Barricade.

(3) Window. In situations where the Marine has not been detected by the enemy, he should use the side of the window or the window sill for support. Ideally, it is best to fire from the corner of the window sill when using the window for support. If there is little chance for

detection or the shot can be made without support, the Marine should remain well back and to the side of the window opening so the pistol will not protrude and his body is concealed by the shadows/darkness of the room. If the Marine is positioned too close to the window, his body will provide a silhouette to the enemy.

(3) Vehicle. In many combat situations particularly in urban environments, a vehicle may be the best form of cover. When using a vehicle for cover, the engine block provides the most protection from small arms fire. The Marine should establish a position behind the front wheel or front door jamb to position himself so the engine block is between him and the target. See figure 6-3. From this position the Marine may fire over the hood of the car or underneath the car from behind the wheel. At the back of the car, the only cover is provided by the axle and the wheel. If the Marine must shoot from the back of the car, he must position himself directly behind the wheel as much as possible. See figure 6-4.

Figure 6-3. Firing Over the Hood of a Vehicle.

Figure 6-4. Firing From the Back of a Vehicle.

d. Support for the Position and the Pistol. The support should be used to help stabilize both the firing position and the pistol to enable the Marine to maintain sight alignment and sight picture.

- The forearms or hands can contact the support to stabilize the weapon. The Marine may rest the pistol on or against the support as long as the support does not interfere or affect the cycle of operation of the weapon. See figure 6-5.

- When firing over the top of cover, the position may be supported and stabilized by resting the trigger guard or the magazine on the cover. See figure 6-6. Likewise, the pistol may be pushed up against the support so the "V" formed by the receiver and the front of the trigger guard rests firmly against the support.

- When firing around the sides of cover, the position may be supported and stabilized by placing the back of the hand or arm against the cover. Avoid placing the slide of the pistol against the cover because it can interfere with the cycle of operation of the pistol. However, the weapon can be canted and placed against the cover so the trigger guard or the "V" formed between the receiver and trigger guard rests against the support. This position will enable the Marine to expose less of himself to the enemy. See figure 6-7.

Figure 6-5. Hand Resting on Support.

Figure 6-6. Trigger Guard Resting Against Support.

Figure 6-7. Hand Resting Against Side of Support.

- When using a vehicle for cover, the Marine can establish additional support for the pistol by positioning himself in the car behind the door jamb (frame of door) and placing his hands or pistol against the "V" formed by the open door and door frame. See figure 6-8.

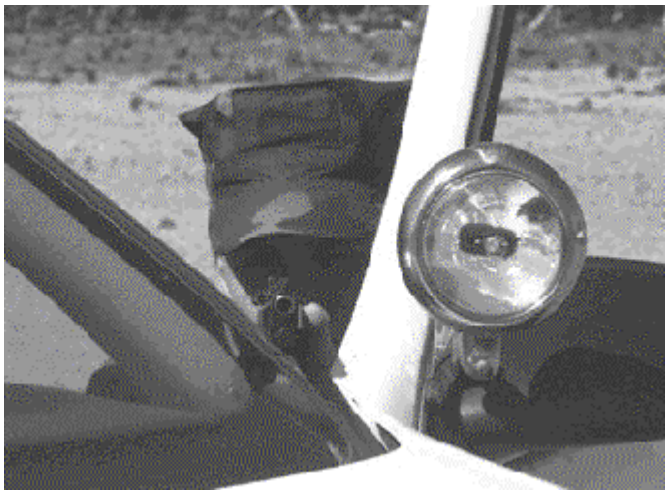

Figure 6-8. Firing From Behind the Door Jamb of a Vehicle.

- When shooting from the left side of cover, the Marine should still use his right hand and eye. See figure 6-9. He may have to cant his head and the pistol to the left to establish

sight alignment. For right-handed Marines, shooting from the left side of cover may expose more of the Marine to the enemy than shooting from the right side.

Figure 6-9. Firing From the Left Side of Cover.

e. Change Positions. If the Marine has been firing from cover and has to reload or clear a stoppage behind cover, he should attempt to resume firing from a different position. The enemy will be aware of the Marine's position and will be waiting for him to reappear.

f. Movement. In combat, the Marine must be constantly aware of his surroundings and available cover should enemy contact occur.

- When moving from cover to cover, the Marine should select the next cover location and plan his route before moving from his present position. This is done by quickly looking from behind cover to ensure the area is clear, ensuring the head and eyes are exposed for as short a time as possible.

- If necessary, the Marine should conduct a Condition 1 reload before moving from cover.

- Once the Marine is committed to moving, all focus should be on moving until cover is reassumed.

6003. Supported Firing Positions

In combat, the Marine may not have the time to assume a perfect firing position. He must know instinctively that his position is correct rather than follow a regimented sequence of movements to ensure its correctness. With training, the Marine can assume stable firing positions quickly and instinctively by incorporating the use of cover for support. Supports are foundations for positions; positions are foundations for the pistol. To maximize the support the position provides, the firing position should be adjusted to fit or conform to the shape of the cover. Elements of a sound firing position, such as balance and stability, must be incorporated and adjusted to fit the situation and type of cover.

a. General. A supported firing position should minimize exposure to the enemy, maximize the stability of the pistol and protection from fire, and provide observation of the enemy. Any stable support may be used such as logs, sandbags, or walls. The surrounding environment will dictate the support and position. The size, distance to the target, and time will affect the need for stability and recovery in the selection of a supported firing position.

(1) For example, for a target a great distance from the Marine, the Marine may choose to sacrifice some of his ability to manage recoil in order to assume a supported firing position which will provide him additional stability needed to fire accurately at long range.

(2) On the other hand, recovery may be more important for the Marine if he must fire multiple shots on target quickly. In this situation, the Marine may choose to sacrifice some stability in his supported firing position in order to engage a target with multiple shots.

b. Supported Prone. The supported prone position provides the lowest silhouette, providing maximum protection from enemy fire. The prone position can be assumed behind a tree, a wall, or almost any type of cover. It is flexible and allows shooting from all sides and from cover of varying sizes. To assume the prone position and maximize the use of cover:

- Keep the position as low as possible to ensure no part of the body is exposed to the enemy.
- To maximize the use of cover, the body must conform to cover.
    - If the cover is narrow, the Marine should position his body directly behind it and keep his legs together. The Marine's body should be in line with the pistol, directly behind the weapon. The Isosceles prone position presents a smaller target to the enemy and more body mass to absorb recoil.
    - The Weaver prone position is ideally suited to fire from around cover (e.g., log) because of the angle of the body. See figure 6-10.

Figure 6-10. Weaver Prone.

c. Supported Kneeling. When the prone position cannot be used because of the height of the support, the supported kneeling position may be appropriate. The kneeling position allows shooting from all sides and from cover of varying sizes. This position may be altered to maximize the use of cover or support by assuming a variation of the kneeling position (high, medium, low, or two-kneed). The kneeling position provides additional mobility over the prone position. In the kneeling position, the Marine must not telegraph his position behind the cover with his knee. For example, to fire from the left side of cover, the Marine may change knees. Any part of the body that is exposed presents a target. See figure 6-11.

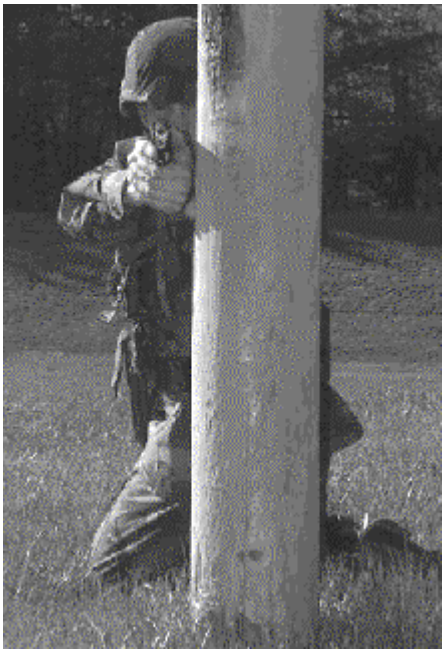

Figure 6-11. Supported Kneeling.

d. Supported Standing. When use of the support is maximized, the supported standing position can be as stable as the supported kneeling or prone position. The supported standing position provides greater mobility than the other positions and usually provides greater observation of the enemy. In the standing position, the Marine must not telegraph his position behind the cover with his foot. See figure 6-12.

Figure 6-12. Supported Standing.

6004. Searching for Targets and Engaging Them from Behind Cover

To locate targets when behind cover or to ensure the area is clear before moving, the Marine must expose as little of himself as possible to the enemy. Additionally, the Marine must be ready to fire if a target is located. There are two techniques that the Marine can use to locate and engage targets from behind cover: the pie and rollout techniques. These techniques minimize the Marine's exposure to enemy fire while placing the Marine in a position to engage targets or to move to another location if necessary. Both techniques are used in the kneeling and standing positions.

a. Pie Technique. In this technique, a Weaver position is the most effective because the position of the body minimizes exposure from cover. To perform the pie technique:

- Staying behind cover, move back and away from the leading edge of the cover. The surroundings and situation will dictate the distance the Marine should move back and away from the cover. Generally, the further back the Marine is from cover, the greater his area of observation; staying too close to cover decreases the area of observation.

- Assume a firing position and lower the pistol sights enough to have a clear field of view, aiming in on the leading edge of the cover.

- Taking small side steps, slowly move out from behind the cover, covering the field of view with the aiming eye and muzzle of the weapon. Wherever the eyes move, the muzzle should move (eyes, muzzle, target). See figures 6-13 and 6-14.

Figure 6-13. Pie Technique - Moving Out From Behind Cover.

Figure 6-14. Pie Technique - Moving Out From Behind Cover (Cont.).

- Continue moving out from cover until a target is identified or the area is found to be clear.
    - When a target is identified, sweep the safety, place the finger on the trigger, and engage the target.
    - If a target is identified before moving out from cover, the pistol should be thumbcocked and off safe before moving out.
    - When necessary, locate and move to other cover.

b. Rollout Technique. In this technique, an Isosceles position is the most effective because the position of the body allows the Marine to better maintain his balance. To perform the rollout technique:

- Staying behind cover, move back and position the body so it is in line with the leading edge of the cover, ensuring that no part of the body extends beyond the cover.
- Assume a firing position and come to the Ready, ensuring the muzzle is just behind the cover.
- Canting the head and weapon slightly, roll the upper body out to the side just enough to have a clear field of view. Keeping the feet in place, push up on the ball of one foot to facilitate rolling out. See figure 6-15.

Figure 6-15. Rollout Technique.

- Continue rolling out from cover until a target is identified or the area is found to be clear.
    - When a target is identified, sweep the safety, place the finger on the trigger, and engage the target.
    - If a target is identified before moving out from cover, the pistol should be thumbcocked and off safe before moving out.
    - When necessary, locate and move to other cover.

c. Combining the Pie and Rollout Techniques. In some situations, it may be necessary to utilize both the pie and rollout technique in order to search an entire area for targets (i.e., corner of a building, doorway). Changing from one technique to another may allow the Marine to minimize his exposure to the enemy and reduce the time he is exposed to enemy fire.

Chapter 7
Presentation of the M9 Service Pistol

In combat, targets present themselves with little or no warning. The Marine must have the ability to react quickly and present his weapon efficiently whether the pistol is in the holster or at a carry. To successfully engage a combat target with the M9 service pistol, the Marine must master weapons presentation from the carries and transport, presentation while assuming a firing position, and search and assess techniques.

Note
The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines must reverse directions as needed.

7001. Presentation of the M9 Service Pistol from the Carries and Holsters

a. Weapons Presentation as an Aid to Achieving Sight Alignment/Sight Picture. Pistol presentation drills and dry fire will help the Marine achieve a consistent grip and rapid presentation and aid in quickly acquiring sight alignment and sight picture.

- When the target is identified, quickly present the weapon to the target. At the same time, sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand. (Disengaging the safety with the right thumb ensures the trigger is not pulled before taking the weapon off safe.)

- As the pistol is presented, shift the focus from the target to the front sight to obtain sight alignment. As the front sight breaks the plane of vision, acquire the front sight and begin to apply trigger control as sight picture is acquired.

- Apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

b. Presentation from the Ready. To present the pistol from the Ready, perform the following steps in sequence. When a target appears:

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger and raise the arms to bring the weapon to the target.

Note
If the Marine wishes to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot, the pistol is thumbcocked with the left thumb after the safety is swept with the right thumb. The grip of the left hand may have to be broken to thumbcock the pistol; reestablish the grip after thumbcocking.

- Acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

c. Presentation from the Alert. To present the pistol from the Alert, perform the following steps in sequence. When a target appears:

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger, and bring the weapon to bear on the target:
  - If the arms are straight and at a 45-degree angle to the deck, raise the arms.
  - If the arms are bent, punch the arms out toward the target.

Note

If the Marine wishes to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot, the pistol is thumbcocked with the left thumb after the safety is swept with the right thumb. The grip of the left hand may have to be broken to thumbcock the pistol; reestablish the grip after thumbcocking.

- Acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

d. Presentation from a Holster Transport. The weapon should be presented from the holster in one continuous, fluid motion.

(1) Presentation from the M12 Holster Transport. To present the pistol from the M12 holster transport, perform the following steps in sequence:

- When a target appears, place the heel of the left hand at the center of the torso with the fingers extended toward the target. (The placement of the left hand should allow a two-handed grip to be established in a minimum amount of movement). At the same time, unfasten and release the D-ring with the right hand.
- With the right hand, place the thumb on the forward edge of the holster and the fingers around the back edge of the holster, keeping the trigger finger straight.
- Slide the hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip. At the same time, keep the thumb above the pistol to guide the holster flap up.
- Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers and draw the pistol straight up. Continue withdrawing the weapon while moving the thumb to a position on the safety.

Note

The hand placement should allow the firing grip to be established once the thumb disengages the safety. Any adjustments made to the firing grip after the safety is disengaged should be minor.

- Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward while sweeping the safety.

- Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the left hand with the right hand in front of the torso. At the same time, start to punch the weapon out toward the target. See figure 7-1.

Figure 7-1. Presentation from the M12 Holster.

- Continue punching the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired. See figure 7-2.

Figure 7-2. Presentation from the M12 Holster (Cont.).

- When time permits to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot (e.g., long-range engagements), present the pistol from the holster by performing the following steps:
  - When a target appears, withdraw the weapon from the holster.
  - Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand.
  - Join the left and right hands and thumbcock the pistol with the left thumb.
  - Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol.
  - Punch the weapon out toward the target and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

(2) Presentation from the M7 Shoulder Holster. The M9 service pistol fits very snugly in the M7 shoulder holster because the holster was originally designed for the M1911A1 45 caliber pistol which has a more slim, round design, particularly around the trigger guard. A firm grip is required when holstering and withdrawing the M9 service pistol from the M7 shoulder holster. To present the pistol from the M7 shoulder holster, perform the following steps:

- Unsnap the thumb snap closure with the left hand.
- Wrap the fingers of the right hand around the pistol grip and rest the thumb on top of the inside of the holster. See figure 7-3.

Figure 7-3. Presentation from the M7 Shoulder Holster.

- Grasp the pistol grip firmly and draw the pistol up and away from the holster while rotating the thumb in a position to operate the safety.

- Continue withdrawing the weapon until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle toward the target. See figure 7-4.

Figure 7-4. Presentation from the M7 Shoulder Holster (Cont.).

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand while starting to punch the weapon out toward the target.

- Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the right hand with the left hand in the center of the torso. See figure 7-5.

Figure 7-5. Presentation from the M7 Shoulder Holster (Cont.).

- Continue punching the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

(3) Presentation from the Assault Holster. To present the pistol from an assault holster, the following steps are performed in one, continuous motion:

- Bring the heel of the hand down on the hammer of the pistol so the meaty part of the heel disengages the thumb break. See figure 7-6.

Figure 7-6. Presentation from the Assault Holster.

- Sweep the hand forward in a small circular motion, slide the hand up the holster, and bring the fingers up under the pistol grip. See figure 7-7.

Note
Depending on the type of retention strap, this circular motion will release the retention strap or push the retention strap forward and out of the way.

Figure 7-7. Presentation from the Assault Holster (Cont.).

- Grasp the pistol grip and draw the pistol straight up and out of the holster while establishing a firing grip and positioning the thumb on the safety to operate it. See figure 7-8.

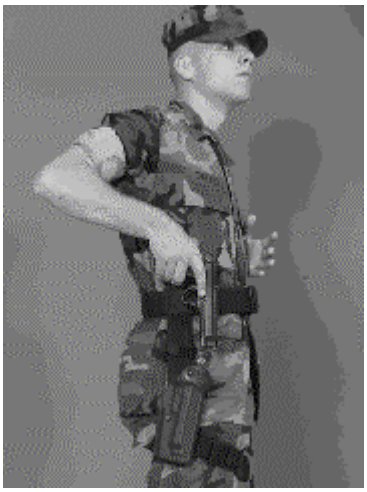

Figure 7-8. Presentation from the Assault Holster (Cont.).

(4) Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster. Depending on the clothing worn by the Marine, there are two methods for accessing the concealed pistol holster so that the clothing does not obstruct the Marine while presenting the pistol. To present the pistol from the concealed pistol holster, the following steps are performed in one, continuous motion:

- If the Marine is wearing a short jacket or sweater (waist-level) that is buttoned or zipped, the Marine:
    - When the target appears, move the left hand across the body and grasp the jacket or sweater just above the holster, at the same time place the right hand on the holster below the jacket or sweater. See figures 7-9 and 7-10.

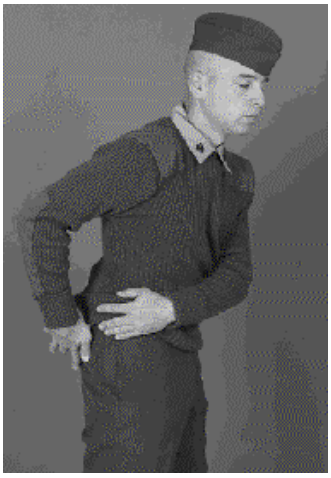

Figure 7-9. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster - Sweater.

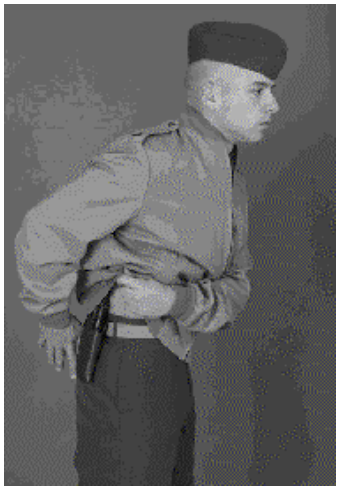

Figure 7-10. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster - Short Jacket.

- Pull up on the jacket or sweater with the left hand. At the same time, slide the right hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip. Keep the thumb above the pistol to ensure the jacket or sweater clears the pistol. See figures 7-11 and 7-12.

Note

Leaning slightly forward at the waist may assist in clearing the jacket or sweater from the pistol, and will assist in removing the pistol from the holster.

Figure 7-11. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster - Sweater (Cont.).

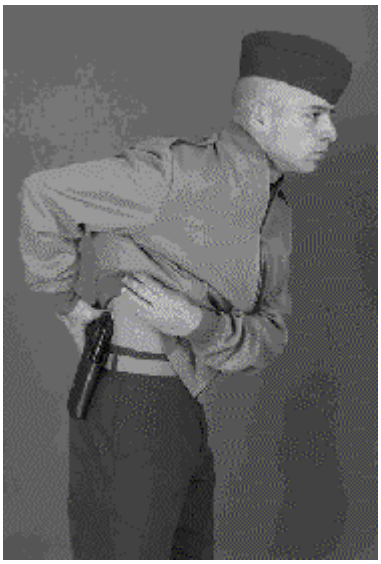

Figure 7-12. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster - Short Jacket (Cont.).

- If the Marine is wearing a long jacket (below waist-level), or a short jacket or sweater that is unfastened, the Marine:

- When a target appears, place the heel of the left hand at the center of the torso to hold the left side of the jacket down with the fingers extended. At the same time, place the right hand on the right side of the jacket, with the thumb underneath the right side of the jacket below the left hand. See figure 7-13.

Figure 7-13. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster with Long Jacket.

- Keeping the thumb of the right hand against the body, throw the jacket back and away from the holster. See figure 7-14.

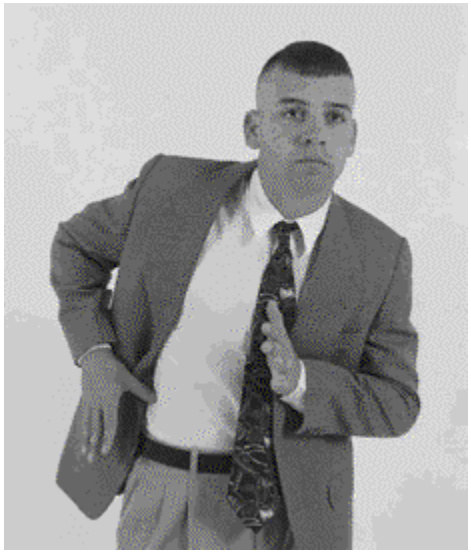

Figure 7-14. Presentation from the Concealed Pistol Holster with Long Jacket (Cont.).

Note
Keeping a weighted object (keys, extra magazine, etc.) in the right-hand pocket of the jacket will assist in throwing the jacket back and away from the holster.

- Place the right hand on the holster and slide the hand up the holster until the fingers come in contact with the pistol grip.

- Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers and draw the pistol straight up. Continue withdrawing the weapon while moving the thumb to a position on the safety.

Note
The hand placement should allow the firing grip to be established once the thumb disengages the safety. Any adjustments made to the firing grip after the safety is disengaged should be minor.

- Once the muzzle clears the holster, rotate the muzzle forward while sweeping the safety.

- Establish a two-handed grip on the pistol by joining the left hand with the right hand in front of the torso. At the same time, start to punch the weapon out toward the target.

- Continue punching the weapon out and, at the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

7002. Presentation While Assuming the Kneeling Position

The kneeling position is generally assumed to take advantage of cover or to provide a more stable base for shooting. In combat, the Marine must be able to quickly assume the kneeling position while presenting the weapon to bear on the target. To present the pistol while assuming the kneeling position, perform the following steps in sequence:

a. Isosceles and Weaver Variations from the Standing Carries

(1) Presentation from the Ready and from the Alert (arms straight):

- When a target appears, drop to the kneeling position while raising the arms to bring the weapon to bear on the target.

Note
For the Weaver variation, maintain the body's position in a 40-60 degree oblique to the target.

- At the same time, sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

(2) Presentation from the Alert (close quarters, elbows bent):

- When a target appears, drop to the kneeling position while punching the arms out toward the target.

Note
For the Weaver variation, maintain the body's position in a 40-60 degree oblique to the target.

- At the same time, sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

b. Isosceles and Weaver Variations from the Standing Holster Transport

- When a target appears, withdraw the pistol from the holster while dropping to the kneeling position. The weapon should be rotated to the target by the time the knee hits the deck.

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the right hand, establish a two-handed firing grip and:

  - In the Weaver Variation - raise the arms to bring the weapon to bear on the target.

  - In the Isosceles Variation - punch the weapon out toward the target.
- At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

7003. Presentation While Assuming the Prone Position

The prone position is generally assumed to take advantage of cover or to provide additional stability for shooting. To present the pistol while assuming the prone position, perform the following steps in sequence:

a. Isosceles Prone from the Standing Holster Transport

- When a target appears, withdraw the weapon from holster. At the same time, get the body on the deck by either the squat method or drop method. The weapon should be rotated to the target as the left hand is placed on the deck.

- Sweep the safety. If the Marine wishes to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot, it is done once the Marine is on the deck.

- Establish a two-handed firing grip while spreading the legs a comfortable distance apart for stability.

- Place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

b. Weaver Prone from the Standing Holster Transport

- When a target appears, withdraw the weapon from the holster. At the same time, get the body on the deck by either the squat method or the drop method. Maintain the 40-60 degree oblique to the target. The weapon should be rotated to the target as the left hand is placed on the deck.

- Sweep the safety. If the Marine wishes to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot, it is done once the Marine is on the deck.

- Bring the left knee up, establish a two-handed firing grip, and place the left elbow on the deck for stability.

- Place the trigger finger on the trigger, acquire sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area, and apply trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

7004. Search and Assess

To be successful in combat, the Marine must have the ability to assess the situation and take appropriate action following engagement. Actions taken upon assessing the situation include re-engaging the target through a precision shot, two shots, or offset aiming; reloading; or assuming a carry or transport. The Marine's performance of these skills, along with proper application of the fundamentals of marksmanship, are the keys to his success in a combat situation.

a. Introduction. In combat, once a Marine fires one or two rounds to engage a target, he must quickly assess the situation and the effectiveness of his engagement.

(1) This split-second assessment should be done quickly and allow the Marine to determine a best course of action.

(2) Making a quick assessment prevents the Marine from the tunnel vision that can occur during combat engagement in which the Marine expends a number of rounds without assessing the results, often with little accuracy.

(3) Immediately after target engagement, the Marine must assess the situation to determine if the threat has been eliminated and search the area to determine if there is a new target that must be engaged.

b. Search and Assess Procedure. To search and assess, perform the following steps in sequence:

- Immediately after a target is engaged, place the trigger finger straight along the receiver. Do not place the pistol on safe.

- Lower the arms just enough to look over the pistol sights and provide a clear field of view.

    - Maintain the firing grip to keep the sights level and allow sight alignment and sight picture to be quickly reestablished should follow-on shots need to be fired.

    - Do not just rotate the wrists to angle the pistol downward because this will break the firing grip and change the tension in the arms.

- Search the area by moving the head, eyes, and pistol left and right (approximately 45 degrees from center). Wherever the head moves, the muzzle moves (eyes, muzzle, target). Keeping both eyes open will increase the field of view.

- When it is determined the area is clear of all enemy threat, place the weapon on safe without breaking the grip, and assume a carry or transport.

c. Actions Taken Upon Assessing the Situation. If the target has not been eliminated, the Marine must determine whether to reengage the target.

- If the Marine decides to reengage the target, the size, time, distance to the target, and capabilities of the Marine will dictate the technique used. Reengagement techniques include re-engaging the target with a well-aimed precision shot, two shots, or offset aiming.

- If the target's distance exceeds the Marine's capabilities for engaging it or the target is partially exposed and too small for the Marine to accurately engage it, the Marine should not attempt to reengage the target. In this situation, the Marine may seek cover, seek out a better opportunity for engagement, or use support to better stabilize the weapon.

- If the threat has been eliminated, the Marine should proceed to search the area for other targets or assume a carry or transport.

Chapter 8
Pistol Engagement Techniques

Note
The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines must reverse directions as needed.

8001. Target Detection

Most combat targets are detected by smoke, flash, dust, noise, or movement and are usually only momentarily visible. Target indicators are anything that reveal an enemy's position to the Marine. These indicators are grouped into the three general areas of movement, sound, and improper camouflage.

a. Movement. The eye is attracted to movement, especially sudden movement. The Marine need not be looking directly at an object to notice movement. The degree of difficulty in locating moving targets depends primarily on the speed of movement. A slowly moving target will be harder to detect than one with quick, jerky movements.

b. Sound. Sound can be used to detect an enemy position. Sound may be made by movement, rattling equipment, or talking. Sound provides only a general location, making it difficult to pinpoint a target by sound alone. However, sound can alert the Marine to the presence of a target and increase his probability of locating it through other indicators.

c. Improper Camouflage. There are three indicators caused by improper camouflage: shine, outline, and contrast with the background. These effects are somewhat diminished at the close ranges pistol engagements take place, but can still affect target detection. Most targets on the battlefield are detected due to improper camouflage. However, many times an observation post or enemy firing position will blend with the natural background. Only through recognition of target indicators will these positions be revealed.

(1) Shine. Shine is created from reflective objects such as metal, glass, pools of water, and the natural oils from the skin. Shine acts as a beacon to a target's position.

(2) Outline. Most enemy soldiers will camouflage themselves, their equipment, and their positions. The outline of objects such as the body, head and shoulders, weapons, and gear are recognizable.

(3) Contrast With the Background. Objects contrast with a background because of differences in color, surface, and shape. For instance, a target wearing a dark uniform would be clearly visible in an area of snow or sand. Symmetrical shapes, such as helmets or rifle barrels, can be detected in a wooded area. Fresh soil around a fighting hole contrasts with the otherwise unbroken ground surface. While observing an area, the Marine should take note of anything that looks out of place or unusual and study it in more detail. This will increase the chances of spotting a hidden enemy.

8002. Techniques of Fire

To successfully engage a combat target with the M9 service pistol, the Marine must have the ability to employ effective techniques of fire. The Marine's performance of these skills, along with proper application of the fundamentals of marksmanship, are the keys to his success in a combat situation.

a. Double and Single Action Firing. When the M9 service pistol is taken off safe, it is capable of firing both double and single action.

(1) Double Action Mode. The design of the M9 service pistol causes the first shot fired to be a double action shot.

(a) In double action firing, two actions occur as the trigger is moved to the rear; the hammer moves to the rear, cocking the weapon, and then the hammer moves forward, firing the weapon. More pressure is required on the trigger to fire a double action shot due to the distance the trigger and hammer have to travel and the weight of the trigger. A double action shot requires approximately 9-16 pounds of pressure to move the trigger rearward.

(b) Maintaining sight alignment/sight picture is harder when firing a double action shot; therefore, it is more likely that the sights will move outside the aiming area when applying trigger pressure.

(2) Single Action Mode. Once the first shot is fired, subsequent shots are fired single action because the cycle of operation leaves the hammer cocked to the rear, automatically placing the pistol in the single action mode.

(a) In single action firing the weapon is already cocked, therefore, the only action taking place as the trigger is moved to the rear is the hammer moving forward, firing the weapon. A single action shot requires approximately 4-6 pounds of pressure to move the trigger rearward.

(b) The application of trigger control is easier when firing a single action shot.

(c) To enable the first shot to be fired single action, the pistol’s hammer can be manually cocked with the thumb.

Note
The weapon must be taken off safe
before it can be thumbcocked.

- To thumbcock the pistol, use the left thumb to pull back on the hammer to cock it. This ensures the firing grip of the right hand does not have to be broken.

- When thumbcocking the pistol, ensure the hammer is moved all the way to the rear, and the trigger finger remains straight along the receiver until the pistol is fully cocked.

- Reestablish the firing grip with both hands once the pistol is cocked.

b. Factors Affecting Whether to Fire Single Action or Double Action

The Marine must make a quick decision on whether to fire single or double action. Ultimately, the decision will be based on the Marine's capabilities, but the decision will also be based on time and accuracy. See figure 8-1.

	TIME	DISTANCE	SIZE	TRIGGER CONTROL	SIGHT PICTURE	BREATH CONTROL/ STABILITY OF HOLD
SINGLE ACTION	LONGER ENGAGE-MENT TIME	LONG RANGE	SMALL TARGET	CRITICAL	CRITICAL	CRITICAL
DOUBLE ACTION	LONGER ENGAGE-MENT TIME	CLOSE RANGE	LARGE TARGET	LESS CRITICAL	LESS CRITICAL	LESS CRITICAL

Figure 8-1. Factors Affecting Whether to Fire Single Action or Double Action.

(1) Time. There is a payoff between time and accuracy. The Marine will sacrifice time to fire a single action, precision shot; but what he sacrifices in time, he will gain in accuracy.

- For quick engagements at close range, there may not be time to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot. For quick engagements of close-range targets, firing the first shot in the double action mode is preferred because shots are needed on target quickly and stability of hold and sight picture are not as critical to accuracy.

- When time permits, and for targets at longer ranges, the pistol may be thumbcocked to place it in the single action mode to reduce the weight of the trigger and the distance it must travel rearward to fire the first shot.

(2) Distance and Size of the Target. The smaller the target, the more critical the application of the fundamentals to engage it accurately. To accurately engage a small target (e.g., headshot, long-range target) it is better to thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot. Engagement of a smaller target requires additional precision because sight alignment and sight picture are more critical to accuracy.

(3) Fundamentals of Marksmanship. The pistol should be fired in the double action mode when trigger control, sight picture, and stability of hold are not as critical for accuracy (i.e., close range, large targets). Likewise, the pistol should be fired in the single action mode when the fundamentals are more critical to accuracy (i.e., long range, small targets).

c. Two-Shot Technique. In combat, it is good technique to rapidly fire more than one shot on a target to eliminate it as a threat. Two shots fired in rapid succession will increase the trauma (i.e., shock, blood loss) on the target, increasing the Marine's chances of quickly eliminating the threat. Therefore, two shots are most often fired in rapid succession on a target at close range.

(1) Recovery. After the pistol is fired, the pistol's muzzle climbs with the recoil of the weapon. To fire two shots, the Marine must quickly recover the sights to the same area on the target while reacquiring sight alignment and sight picture. Proper recovery automatically brings the sights back on target following recoil. Quick recovery allows more time for the Marine to align the sights and apply trigger control to fire the next shot. Recovery begins immediately after the application of the fundamentals to bring the pistol sights into alignment with the target in preparation for firing the next shot.

(2) Factors Affecting Recovery. The amount the muzzle climbs during recoil depends on the amount of controlled muscular tension in the grip and wrists applied to stabilize the weapon and create consistency in resistance to recoil. Controlled muscular tension allows the weapon sights to recover consistently back on target within a minimum amount of time. The speed of delivery of multiple shots is dependent on how fast the Marine can reacquire sight alignment.

- A key to proper recovery is a stable firing position and proper grip.

- If the Marine's firing position is not stable, recoil will force him out of his firing position, requiring him to reestablish his position before he takes his next shot.

- An improper grip or lack of controlled muscular tension will cause the pistol to move in the Marine's hand after the shot is fired, disrupting sight alignment and requiring the Marine to reestablish his grip.

d. Slow Fire Technique. Sight alignment becomes more critical the smaller the target and the greater the distance to the target. In these situations, the Marine does not engage the target with two rapidly fired shots because he has to slow down his application of the fundamentals to fire a precision shot(s). To engage small targets (i.e., partially exposed) and targets at longer ranges where precision is required, the Marine must employ the following slow fire technique:

- Thumbcock the pistol for a single action shot.
- Slow down the application of the fundamentals.
- Fire one well-aimed, precision shot on the target.

8003. Reengagement Techniques

Once the Marine has quickly assessed the situation and determined that the threat still exists, he may make the decision to reengage the target to eliminate it as a threat. Reengagement techniques include engaging the target with a precision shot through slow fire, two shots, or offset aiming. The time, size, and distance to the target as well as the capabilities of the Marine will dictate the technique used to reengage the target.

a. Slow Fire Technique. If the Marine has engaged a target and the target still poses a threat, the Marine may choose to slow down his application of the fundamentals and fire a slow fire, precision shot. The placement of one well-aimed precision shot on a designated area of the target will increase the chances of eliminating the target as a threat. The key to the success rests with the Marine's ability to slow down his performance and focus on the application of the fundamentals of marksmanship to ensure accurate shot placement.

(1) Assessing Performance. When assessing the situation, the Marine must assess his own performance to determine whether he is applying the fundamentals of marksmanship correctly. Failure to eliminate a target may be attributed to problems in the Marine's shooting performance.

(2) Shot Placement. The Marine must determine where to place this precision shot for maximum effectiveness, and to make this decision, he must consider distance and size of the target, and time.

(a) Distance and Size of the Target. There are times when a Marine is accurately engaging a target and applying the fundamentals, but the target still does not go down. In this situation, the Marine may have to adjust his aiming area for a head shot.

- **Close Range.** For targets at close range and within the Marine's capability, a precision shot may be placed in the head to immediately eliminate the target as a threat. This is only done if the Marine is accurately engaging the target, but the target still does not go down. Even at close ranges, the Marine may only be presented with a small target when the target is partially exposed. In this situation, the Marine will aim his sights on the portion of the target that is exposed.

- **Long Range.** For targets at long ranges, the target is smaller, requiring a precision shot. A precision shot may be placed in the body to add trauma to the target and increase the chances of eliminating the target as a threat.

(b) Time. The time the Marine has to engage the target affects whether he can slow down his application of the fundamentals to fire a precision shot. Firing a precision shot takes time, so the Marine will sacrifice time for accuracy.

b. Two-Shot Technique. In combat, it may not always be possible to eliminate a target in a single engagement, regardless of how well the fundamentals are applied, because two shots may not cause enough trauma to the body to eliminate the target. If a target is accurately engaged, but it does not go down, the Marine may choose to reengage the target with additional shots. Two additional, rapidly delivered shots will increase the trauma, increasing the Marine's chances of quickly eliminating the threat.

(1) The size and distance to the target will affect how quickly two shots can be delivered on the target. The speed at which two shots are fired is also dependent on the ability of the Marine and how fast he can reacquire his front sight.

(2) The Marine must not compromise accuracy for speed; the key to successful target engagement is to fire only as quickly as the Marine can fire effectively.

c. Offset Aiming. When the Marine assesses the situation and determines his shots are not successful and not striking the target in the designated aiming area, he may employ offset aiming. Since the pistol's sights cannot be adjusted, offset aiming is applied to adjust the aiming area to cause rounds to strike center mass. This technique should only be applied when the Marine determines that he is applying the fundamentals of marksmanship correctly. Sight picture will change as the aiming area is adjusted.

(1) The known strike of the round offset aiming technique requires shifting the point of aim to compensate for rounds striking off target center.

(2) To effectively engage a target using this technique, the Marine must be able to see where the rounds are striking and then aim an equal distance from the center of the aiming area opposite the observed strike of the round. For example, if the rounds are striking the target high and left of center mass, aim an equal and opposite distance low and right.

8004. Engaging Multiple Targets

When a Marine is forced to engage more than one target at a time, there are actions that can be taken to turn the advantage in his favor. One is adhering to the fundamentals of marksmanship. Another is employing the techniques of multiple target engagement. The introduction of multiple targets in a combat scenario requires additional skills that must be learned and practiced if a Marine is to be successful. While there are physical skills that must be acquired, mental preparedness is also a key factor in engaging multiple targets. To be effective in combat, the Marine must be able to detect targets through identification of target indicators, prioritize the targets, and employ multiple target engagement techniques.

a. Prioritizing Targets. Once multiple targets have been identified, they must be prioritized in terms of the threat each target presents. While the fundamentals of marksmanship must still be applied, prioritizing targets and planning the engagement are just as essential to successful multiple target engagement.

(1) Combat Mindset. Successful engagement of multiple targets requires a somewhat different mindset from single target engagement. For example, following engagement of a single target, the Marine assesses the situation. During multiple target engagements, after the first target is engaged, he must immediately engage the next target and continue until all targets have been eliminated. This requires a mindset that enables quick action.

(a) Because split-second decisions must be made, the development of a combat mindset is important to success on the battlefield. This mindset allows the Marine to control the pace of the battle rather than react to the threat.

(b) While engaging multiple targets, it is critical that the Marine be aware of his surroundings and not be focused on one target. He must maintain constant awareness, continuously searching the terrain around him for additional targets.

(c) Mental preparedness is a key to successful engagement of multiple targets, and the required mindset must be developed until it becomes second nature to the Marine. When multiple targets appear, the Marine must prioritize the targets to establish an engagement sequence. He must be so prepared that the needed decisions are made in the short time available in battle.

(2) Prioritize Targets. Target priority is based on factors such as proximity, threat, and opportunity, and no two situations will be the same. The Marine's proficiency level also comes into play because the Marine should not attempt to engage a target beyond his proficiency level or the weapon's capability (e.g., a target at 100 yards away). The principal method is to determine the level of threat for each target so all may be engaged in succession from the most threatening to the least threatening. Examples of factors the Marine should consider when prioritizing targets include:

(a) The target closest to the Marine.

(b) The target that presents the greatest threat to the Marine.

Prioritizing targets is an ongoing process. As the engagement proceeds, new targets may appear that are more threatening than those previously identified. Also, targets that had been identified as most threatening may take cover, delaying their engagement. The Marine must remain constantly alert to changes in target threat, proximity, and his opportunity for engagement, and revise his target priorities accordingly.

b. Engaging Multiple Targets. Once targets have been prioritized, the Marine must quickly eliminate them. It is crucial to understand and practice the methods for engaging multiple targets until they become second nature. When physical engagement actions are automatic in combat, the Marine can maintain an awareness of the complete battlefield and concentrate on the mental aspects of multiple target engagement.

(1) Method for Engaging Multiple Targets. The fundamentals of marksmanship are critical to the development of skills to support multiple target engagement. While quickness is important when engaging multiple targets, the Marine's primary concern should be on placing accurate rounds on target. A balance must be struck between placing shots quickly on targets at close range and slowing down to place precision shots on targets at long range because all targets pose a threat and must be accurately engaged. The following is one method that may be used to engage multiple targets with the pistol:

- Engage every target, moving from target to target.
- After all of the targets have been initially engaged, assess the effectiveness of the engagements and, if necessary, reengage targets that still pose a threat.
- If all of the targets are eliminated, search the area for new targets.

(2) Considerations for Field Firing Positions. There are basic differences in the techniques to engage multiple targets depending on the firing position. The selection and use of field firing positions is critical to engagement of multiple targets. As in any firing situation, if the situation permits, the Marine should make a quick mental review of the terrain to select a firing position that provides stability, mobility, and observation of the enemy. The firing position should also provide flexibility for engaging multiple targets. The more dispersed the multiple targets, the greater the lateral movement the position must afford to engage them.

(a) Although the prone position provides the maximum stability for firing well-placed shots, engaging multiple targets from this position may require adjustment in the position from shot to shot depending on the distance between the targets and their location. Because the arms are fully extended on the ground, the prone position can be restrictive, increasing the time it will take to recover the sights onto subsequent targets.

(b) The kneeling and standing positions provide an increased field of view and allow maximum lateral adjustment to engage dispersed targets.

(3) Kneeling/Standing Position. The type of adjustment the Marine must make in the kneeling or standing position in order to orient his body in the direction of each target is a function of the distance between the targets and the Marine's ability to maintain stability of hold and recover from recoil. Once the first target is engaged:

- While maintaining a proper shooting position, rotate the body in the direction of the target, keeping the feet in place. In the standing position, the Marine may bend slightly at the knees while rotating the body. This allows the Marine to distribute his weight forward to provide additional stability to the position and better control the effects of recoil.

- If the targets are some distance apart, the Marine may not be able to maintain stability of hold or properly manage the effects of recoil by just rotating the body. In this situation, the Marine must adjust his entire position by either adjusting the placement of his feet or knee(s) to face in the direction of the new target.

- When the eyes move to a new target, the head and muzzle should follow.

(4) Prone Position. If the Marine must make an adjustment in the prone position to engage multiple targets, he must ensure that he maintains proper arm placement. Improper arm placement may affect his stability of hold and his ability to acquire sight picture. Once the first target has been engaged:

- Adjust the position of the lower part of the body to orient the upper body toward the target without disturbing the placement of the arms. This will allow the Marine to maintain stability of hold and quickly recover on subsequent targets. Moving the legs to the left will orient the upper body to the right; moving the legs to the right will orient the upper body to the left.

- For targets that are widely dispersed, the Marine may need to adjust his entire position to orient his body in the direction of subsequent targets. Using the left hand, push the upper body off the deck just high enough to move the body in the direction of the target. Extend the right arm toward the target and keep the muzzle pointed in the direction of the target.

8005. Engaging Moving Targets

The majority of combat targets will be moving; the enemy will not present himself for a deliberate shot. He will move quickly from cover to cover, exposing himself for the shortest time possible. A moving target must be engaged before it disappears. For effectiveness in combat, the Marine must engage a moving target with the same accuracy and precision he would a stationary target under a variety of combat conditions. Practice in the proper application of leads and the fundamentals of marksmanship will enable successful engagement of moving targets.

a. Types of Moving Targets. Targets move in different ways. Techniques to engage moving targets vary with the type of movement and the situation.

(1) Moving Target. This type of target moves in a consistent manner and is in continuous sight as it moves across the Marine's field of vision. A walking or running man is an example of this type of target. However, unless the enemy is completely unaware of the Marine's presence, this type of target is not likely to present itself.

(2) Stop and Go Target. This type of target will appear and disappear during its movement due to intermittent cover. It will present itself for only a short period of time before reestablishing cover. An enemy moving from one position of cover to another is an example. This enemy target is most vulnerable to fire at the beginning and end of his rush to cover as he gains momentum and then slows to avoid overrunning the cover position.

b. Leads for Moving Targets. Once the moving target has been identified, it must be engaged. To engage a moving target, the Marine must aim at some point in front of the target to strike it. This is referred to as taking a lead. Determining the amount of lead to engage a moving target must be as precise as possible to achieve success.

(1) Lead. When a shot is fired at a moving target, the target continues to move during the time of the bullet's flight. For this reason, the aim must be in front of the target; otherwise, the shot will fall behind it. Lead is the distance in advance of the target that is required to strike the target when it is moving.

(2) Factors Affecting Lead. Factors that affect the amount of lead are the target's range, speed, and angle of movement.

(a) Range. There is a time lag from the time a round is fired until the round strikes at the point of aim. This time of flight could allow a target to move out of the bullet's path if the round were fired directly at the target. Time of flight increases as range to the target increases. Therefore, the lead must be increased in proportion to the distance to the target.

(b) Speed. A greater lead will be required to hit a running man than a walking man because the running man will move a greater distance during the flight of the bullet.

(c) Angle of Movement. The angle of target movement also affects the amount of lead required for target engagement. The angle of movement across the Marine's line of sight relative to the flight of the bullet determines the type (amount) of lead.

(3) Types of Leads

(a) Full Lead. The target is moving straight across the Marine's line of sight with only one arm and half the body visible. This target requires a full lead because it will move the greatest distance across the Marine's line of sight during the flight of the bullet.

(b) Half Lead. The target is moving obliquely across the Marine's line of sight (at about a 45-degree angle). One arm and over half of the back or chest are visible. This target requires half of a full lead because it will move half as far as a target moving directly across the Marine's line of sight during the flight of the bullet.

(c) No Lead. A target moving directly toward or away from the Marine presents a full view of both arms and the entire back or chest. No lead is required. This target is engaged in the same manner as a stationary target because it is not moving across the Marine's line of sight.

(4) Point of Aim Technique for Establishing Leads. To engage a moving target, a Marine must establish a lead using an offset aiming technique. In the point of aim offset aiming technique, predetermined points of aim sector a man-sized target vertically, halfway between center mass and the leading edge of the target (one point of aim) and at the leading edge of the target (two points of aim). See figure 8-2. The same units of measure can be applied off the target for holds of additional points of aim. To use the point of aim technique to establish a lead on a man-sized moving target at various ranges, speeds, and angles of movement, the following guidelines apply. See figure 8-3.

- For a target moving at a distance of 15 yards away or less, no lead is required.
- For a target walking directly across the Marine's line of sight (full lead) between 16-25 yards away, hold 1 point of aim in the direction the target is moving.
- For a target running directly across the Marine's line of sight (full lead) between 16-25 yards away, hold 2 points of aim in the direction the target is moving.

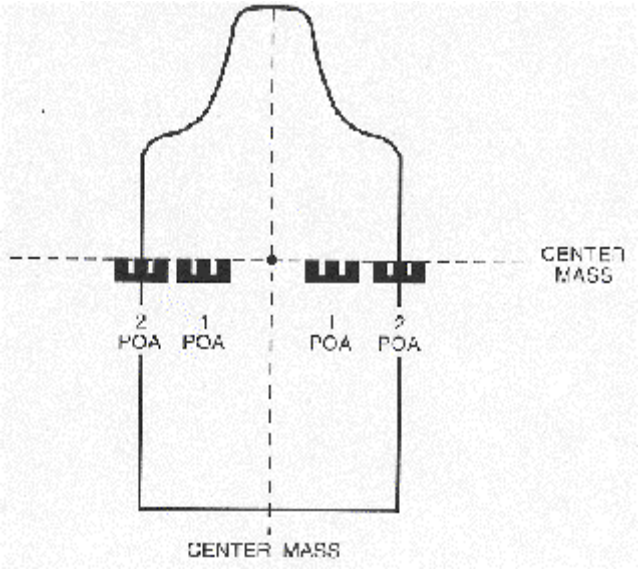

Figure 8-2. Points of Aim.

TARGET	DISTANCE	POINTS OF AIM
ANY	0 - 15 YARDS / METERS	NO LEAD
WALKING	16 - 25 YARDS / METERS	1
RUNNING	16 - 25 YARDS / METERS	2

Figure 8-3. Moving Target Leads.

c. Methods for Engaging Moving Targets. Training in moving target engagement will provide practice in calculating points of aim (leads) so this skill becomes second nature. Equally important are the methods to engage moving targets. Moving targets, although difficult, can be engaged by the tracking or ambush method or a combination of the two. See figure 8-4.

(1) The Tracking Method. In this method, the Marine "tracks" or follows the target with his front sight while maintaining sight alignment and a point of aim on or ahead of (leading) the target until the shot is fired. Sight picture is the aiming point in relation to the target while maintaining sight alignment (when a lead is established in moving target engagement, the sights will not be centered on the target). To execute the tracking method of moving target engagement:

- Thumbcock the pistol while presenting it to the target.
- Track the muzzle of the pistol through the target to the desired point of aim (lead). The point of aim may be on the target or some point in front of the target depending upon the target's range, speed, and angle of movement.
- Track and maintain focus on the front sight while applying trigger pressure and acquiring sight alignment.
- Continue tracking and applying trigger pressure, and acquire sight picture. When sight picture is established, engage the target while maintaining the proper point of aim (lead).
- Follow through so the lead is maintained as the bullet exits the muzzle. Continuing to track also enables a second shot to be fired on target, if necessary.

(2) The Ambush Method. The ambush method is generally used for a stop and go target and when it is difficult to track the target with the pistol, such as in the prone position. With this method, the pistol is aimed at a predetermined engagement point ahead of the target and along its path, allowed to remain stationary, and fired when the target reaches the predetermined engagement point. The engagement point is determined based on the required point of aim (lead) to effectively engage the target. When the sights are settled, the target moves into the predetermined engagement point creating the desired sight picture. Once sight picture is established, the remaining pressure is applied on the trigger until the shot fires. To execute the ambush method:

- Look for a pattern of exposure.
- Thumbcock the pistol while presenting it to a selected point of aim ahead of the target.
- While applying trigger pressure, obtain sight alignment in the aiming area.
- While continuing trigger pressure, hold sight alignment until the target moves into the predetermined engagement point and the desired sight picture is established.
- When sight picture is acquired, engage the target.
- Follow through so the pistol sights are not disturbed as the bullet exits the muzzle.

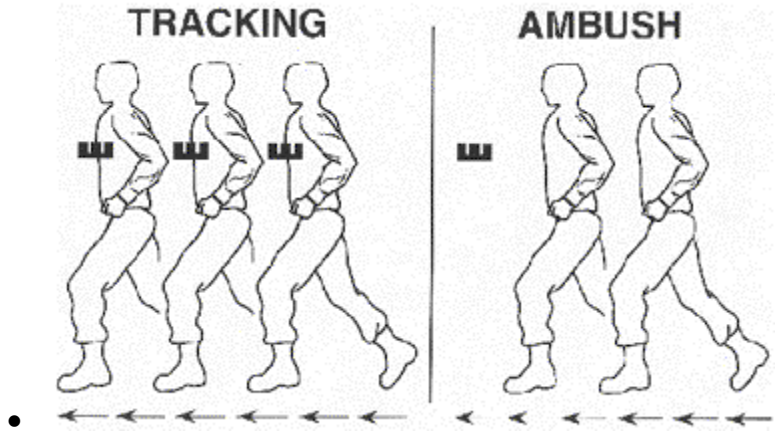

Figure 8-4. Moving Target Engagement Methods.

c. Applying the Fundamentals of Marksmanship to Engage Moving Targets

(1) Importance of Training in Moving Target Engagement. The engagement of moving targets is a perishable skill that must be practiced frequently if it is to be maintained. The Marine must practice to develop the skill to calculate the point of aim (lead) and fire the shot while maintaining the proper point of aim (lead). The fundamentals of marksmanship must be practiced and applied when engaging moving targets. Additionally, follow-through and a stable position play key roles in successfully engaging moving targets. The fundamentals must be instinctively applied, allowing concentration on tracking the target and applying point of aim (lead). The fundamentals must be applied simultaneously to the application of the point of aim (lead).

(2) Fundamentals of Marksmanship

(a) Aiming. Sight alignment remains unchanged for accurate engagement of a moving target. The most common error when engaging moving targets is the tendency to focus on the target rather than the front sight. Sight picture is the point of aim in relation to the target while maintaining sight alignment. For both the ambush and tracking methods, sight picture is changed from the normal center mass picture, based on range, speed, and angle of movement of the target. It takes practice in moving target engagement to quickly establish the desired sight picture for a given point of aim (lead).

(b) Breath Control. There is no difference in breath control when engaging moving targets; the breath is held to fire the shot.

(c) Trigger Control. Trigger control is critical to firing shots while establishing and maintaining sight alignment and sight picture. Because the single action mode is the preferred method of engaging a moving target, the weapon should be thumbcocked before trigger control is applied.

- Interrupted trigger control is not recommended when engaging moving targets because the point of aim (lead) will be lost or have to be adjusted if the trigger is held to reassume the proper sight picture.

- When the tracking method is used, there is a tendency to stop tracking as trigger control is applied. This causes the shot to impact behind the moving target. Trigger control should be uninterrupted while maintaining the point of aim and continuing to track so the trigger is pulled in one continuous, smooth motion to the rear.

- There is a tendency to interrupt trigger control when the target is masked from view. This is particularly true in the ambush method for targets that appear to stop and go when moving to and from cover. Trigger control should be uninterrupted.

(3) Follow-through. When using the tracking method, continue tracking the target while following through with the shot process so the point of aim (lead) is maintained as the bullet exits the muzzle. Continuing to track also enables a second shot to be fired on target if necessary. Concentration should be on continuing to track while applying the fundamentals. The application of the fundamentals must be instinctive to concentrate on applying the proper point of aim (lead) and continuing the movement of the pistol in completion of the shot.

(4) Shooting Position and Grip. To engage moving targets using the tracking method, the Marine must move the pistol smoothly and steadily as the target moves. A stable position and firm grip are necessary to steady the pistol sights while tracking.

8006. Engaging Targets During Low-Light and Darkness

An effective combat marksman must be prepared to detect and engage targets under a variety of conditions. Factors such as terrain and opportunity often dictate that the Marine engage combat targets at night or under low-light conditions.

a. Night Vision Adaptation and Maintenance

(1) Night Vision Adaptation. There are two methods for acquiring night vision:

(a) The first method is to remain in an area of darkness for about 30 minutes. This area can be indoors or outdoors. The major disadvantage of this approach is an individual is not able to perform any tasks while acquiring night vision in total darkness.

(b) The second method is to remain in a darkened area under low intensity red light (similar to the light in a photographer's darkroom) for about 20 minutes, followed by about 10 minutes in darkness without the red light. This method produces almost complete night vision adaptation while permitting the performance of some tasks during the adjustment period.

(2) Night Vision Maintenance. Because the eyes take a long time to adjust to darkness, it is important to protect night vision once it is acquired. To maintain night vision:

(a) Avoid looking at any bright light. Shield the eyes from parachute flares, spotlights, or headlights.

(b) When using a flashlight to read a map or other material:

- Put one hand over the glass to limit the area illuminated and the intensity of the light. Keeping one eye shut will reduce the amount of night vision lost.

- Cover the light with a red filter to help reduce the loss of night vision.

b. Target Detection Techniques. Once the Marine has acquired night vision, he is prepared to locate targets. Some of the daylight observation techniques, such as searching for target indicators, also apply at night or in low light. But night observation techniques must allow for the limitations of night vision and the need to protect it.

(1) Off-Center Vision. Because of the placement of the cones in the center of the retina and the rods around the edges, the angle at which the Marine observes an object at night will affect how well he can see it. Off-center vision is the technique of keeping the attention focused on an object without looking directly at it. This maximizes the use of the rods that provide night vision.

- Never look directly at the object being observed.

- Look slightly to the left, right, above, or below the object. Experiment and practice to find the best off-center angle for each individual. For most people, it is about 6 to 10 degrees away from the object, or about a fist's width at arm's length. See figure 8-5.

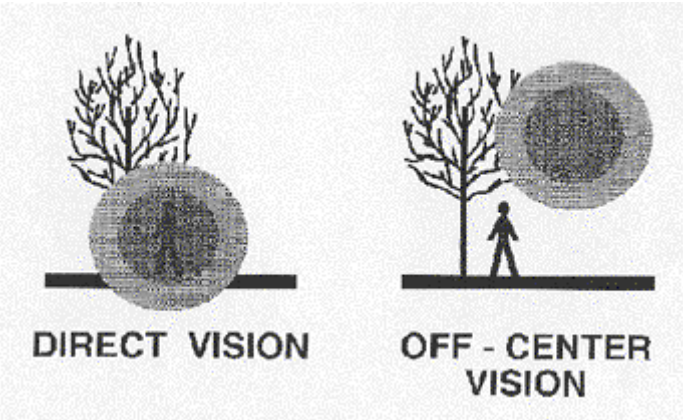

Figure 8-5. Off-Center Vision.

(2) Scanning/Figure Eight Scan. Scanning is the use of off-center vision to observe an area or object and involves slowly moving the eyes in a series of separate movements across the objective area. See figure 8-6.

- Move the eyes in a figure eight pattern in short, abrupt, irregular movements over and around the area. Once a target indicator has been detected, focus should be concentrated in that area, but not directly at it.
- It is more effective to scan from a prone position or a position closer to the ground than the object being observed. This will create a silhouetted view of the object.
- When scanning an area, look and listen for the same target indicators as in daylight: movement, sound, and improper camouflage.
    - Objects in bright moonlight/starlight cast shadows just as in sunlight.
    - Sound always seems to be louder at night than during daylight.

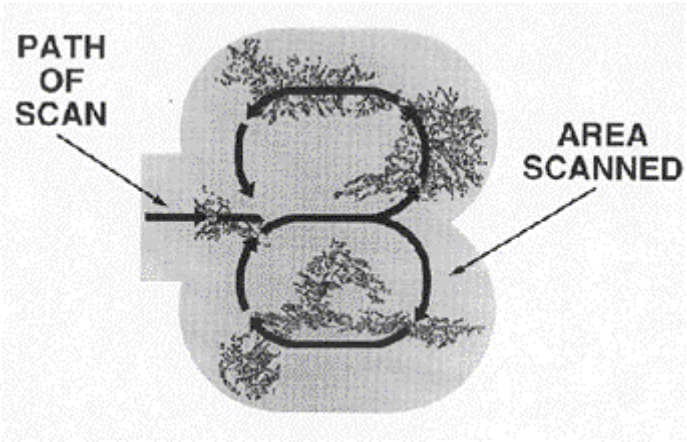

Figure 8-6. Figure Eight Scan.

c. Effects of Illumination. Both ambient (natural) light and artificial illumination can affect a Marine's perception of target distance and size, as well as night vision. The following will produce less of an effect at the close ranges pistol engagements take place, but will still affect target detection and engagement:

(1) Light behind or between the Marine and the target will illuminate the front of the target and make it appear closer than it actually is.

(2) Light beyond the target will display the target in silhouette and make it appear farther away than it actually is.

(3) The introduction of light requires the eyes to make a sudden, drastic adjustment to the amount of light received. This can cause the temporary blinding effect that is experienced when night vision is interrupted abruptly. Ambient light can also have this blinding effect, for instance, when a bright moon suddenly appears from behind clouds.

d. Engagement of Targets During Low Light and Darkness. The fundamentals of marksmanship are employed for engagement of targets in low light and darkness just as they are in daylight. However, the principles of night vision and target detection when engaging targets at night must be applied.

(1) Combat Mindset. In the stress of the combat environment, Marines must eliminate any hesitation, fear, or uncertainty of action and focus on the actions to fire well-aimed shots. This is especially important during low light and darkness when attention is more easily diverted than in the daytime, because the sense of vision is reduced. This may create a shock of awareness as the Marine relies more heavily on his other senses. Every noise, movement, and muzzle blast appears intensified at night. The physical acts of shooting must become second nature to the Marine, so his focus will not be diverted from firing well-aimed shots. This is accomplished through mental preparedness and training until shooting actions become instinctive.

(2) Acquiring Targets at Night. The Marine must keep both eyes open to get maximum visual coverage of the target area. Keeping both eyes open also improves depth perception and peripheral vision.

(3) Sight Alignment/Sight Picture. Sight alignment and sight picture are obtained the same way in darkness as in daylight. There is normally enough ambient light to perceive objects as far as 50 meters away, especially if they are moving. However, when pistol sights are placed on a dark background, such as a camouflaged target, the Marine may not be able to acquire and align the sights clearly. Instead, the Marine may have to rely almost entirely on his presentation, firing position, and grip to get the weapon on target. To check for sight alignment or acquire the sights:

- Move the pistol just off the edge of the target to an area that provides a good contrast.
- Acquire sight alignment.
- Bring the sights back on line with the target while applying pressure to the trigger so the shot breaks once the sights are on target.

8007. Flashlight Techniques for Target Detection/Engagement

The primary objective of using a flashlight in low light and darkness is to identify and illuminate targets. The secondary objective of using a flashlight is to acquire sight picture. Night engagement techniques include those that incorporate use of a flashlight to detect and engage targets.

a. Flashlights

(1) Types of Flashlights. There are a variety of flashlights used throughout the Marine Corps. The flashlights come in many different shapes and sizes, however, they all fall into one of two categories.

(a) Straight/Tubular. The straight/tubular flashlight is the most commonly used. The body of the flashlight is a straight/tubular shape with the lens at the head of the flashlight. The on/off mechanism is located along the body or at the base of the flashlight.

(b) L-shaped. The L-shaped flashlight has a straight/tubular body, with the head/lens of the flashlight positioned at a 90-degree angle to the body of the flashlight. The on/off mechanism is located along the body or at the base of the flashlight.

(2) Activation Devices. Depending on the type of flashlight, there are several ways that one can be activated.

(a) On/off Button. On/off buttons are located either along the body of the flashlight or at the base. On/off buttons are operated in a number of ways, depending on the flashlight.

(b) On/off Switch. On/off switches are mounted on the body of the flashlight. This switch has three settings which allow the flashlight to be either on, off, or in manual mode. In the manual mode, the flashlight is turned on by pressing and holding the button located next to the on/off switch.

(c) Rotating Head. Rotating the head of the flashlight either clockwise or counterclockwise will turn the flashlight on. Continuing this motion allows the width and intensity of the beam to be adjusted.

(3) Types of Lenses

(a) Clear Lenses. The most commonly used lens in the flashlight is the clear lens. Clear lenses are used primarily for target detection and to illuminate the pistol sights.

(b) Colored Lenses. Colored lenses include red, amber, and blue. These lenses are used primarily for map reading and signaling, but can be used to illuminate the pistol sights.

b. Flashlight Techniques for Target Detection. The primary objective of using a flashlight in low light and darkness is to identify and illuminate targets. The secondary objective of using a flashlight is to acquire sight picture. When a target is illuminated, the front sight may become silhouetted against the target, providing the sight picture needed to engage the target.

(1) Target Detection Using a Flashlight. During target detection, the Marine's focus should be twofold: to scan the area to identify possible targets and to assess the area to

formulate a plan for engagement or cover (e.g., identifying the quickest route to cover, determining the best method for engagement based on terrain).

(a) Hasty Search. Immediately upon entering a new area, the Marine must search for enemy activity that poses immediate danger. When using a flashlight to detect targets, the Marine should first conduct a hasty search of the area to identify target indicators.

- Quickly scan the area with the flashlight taking note of obvious points throughout the area that could cover or conceal the enemy. Wherever the eyes move, the flashlight should move.

- The Marine should begin by aiming the flashlight beam on the ground about 8-10 feet in front of his location. This allows the Marine's eyes to follow the beam and quickly establish a reference point for the light. Aiming the beam at the outer edge of the search area strains the eyes to find the beam, decreasing the field of view.

(b) Detailed Search. The Marine should follow up with a detailed search conducted on target indicators identified during the hasty search.

- Focus the most direct or intense portion of the flashlight beam on the target indicators.

- Move the beam of light slowly across the target indicator from right to left or left to right. Wherever the eyes move, the flashlight should move.

(2) Considerations for Target Detection Using a Flashlight

(a) The Marine should use a flashlight whenever possible; a flashlight not only helps the Marine locate targets at night, but the beam can be aimed directly at the target once it is detected. This direct light will temporarily blind the target. This gives the Marine the advantage to react before the target does.

(b) Anytime a Marine has a flashlight turned on, he may be revealing his location to the enemy. The Marine should keep the flashlight pointed out in front of his body to help avoid illuminating himself and revealing his position.

- Light shined directly from in front of the Marine at the target will obscure the Marine.

- Light shined from the side of the Marine at the target will illuminate the Marine.

(c) Light can bounce off surfaces and reflect back onto larger areas which the beam of light is not focused.

- Whenever a Marine shines a flashlight onto a surface, some of the light may reflect back and illuminate the Marine, possibly making him a target for the enemy.

- When a Marine is positioned at the outside corner of a room, building, or other cover he should avoid pointing the flashlight beam directly at the corner because the beam will reflect off the corner and illuminate the Marine. To prevent this, the head of the flashlight should extend just beyond the corner.

(d) Many flashlights have adjustable beams that can aid in target detection. The intensity of the beam must be adjusted to provide the best illumination of the area depending on the distance between the Marine and the area of observation.

- Diffused light from a wide beam creates a softer light and will illuminate a greater area, but the beam will not travel a great distance. A wide beam is best for observing larger areas at close range.

- Concentrated light from a narrow beam illuminates a smaller field of view, but the beam will travel a greater distance. A concentrated beam is effective for observing a specific area or an area that is further away. Concentrated light blinds the enemy and prevents him from focusing on the Marine or determining his location.

(e) When searching an area, the Marine can alter the position where he is holding his flashlight so that the beam will be perceived as coming from various locations. For example, the Marine can turn the flashlight on from a standing position, quickly search for targets, turn the flashlight off, assume a kneeling position, and search again. This keeps the enemy from obtaining an exact location of the Marine's position.

(f) Keep both eyes open to get maximum visual coverage of the target area. Keeping both eyes open also improves depth perception and peripheral vision.

c. Flashlight Techniques for Target Engagement. Once a target is detected using a flashlight, the flashlight can be used to acquire sight picture and facilitate engagement of the target. The fundamentals of marksmanship are employed for engagement of targets in darkness just as they are in daylight. However, the Marine must apply the principles of night vision and target detection, and be able to employ a flashlight properly, when engaging targets at night.

(1) Grip When Using a Flashlight. To engage a target accurately while using a flashlight, the flashlight must be held to provide the best stability, control, and management of recoil while firing. When firing with a two-handed grip, the left hand provides stability and control to manage recoil. When firing with a flashlight, the left hand is used to hold and operate the flashlight. Therefore, some stability, control, and management of recoil is lost.

(2) Securing the Flashlight. Most flashlights come equipped with a retaining loop located at the base for ease of transporting. If the flashlight has a retaining loop, attaching a cord to

it will help support and stabilize the flashlight when the Marine must fire the weapon with the flashlight in his left hand. It will also help to retain the flashlight. To position the cord properly:

- Feed one end of the cord through the retaining loop of the flashlight and tie the ends of the cord together.

- Slip the left hand through the cord loop. The loop should be just big enough so that, if the flashlight needs to be dropped, it can be retained on the wrist. Rotate the flashlight until the cord is twisted to the desired tension and length necessary to best stabilize the rear end of the flashlight in the hand. Grasp the flashlight with the left hand in a position that allows it to be operated easily.

(3) Acquiring Sight Alignment/Sight Picture When Using a Flashlight. When holding a flashlight on a target, the tendency is to look at the target rather than the sights. Sight alignment is still necessary for effective target engagement. A by-product of using a flashlight to illuminate a target is the ability to:

(a) Acquire sight picture by silhouetting the sights against the target.

- The Marine can establish sight picture by focusing the sights in the soft, diffused light area of the target.

- At close ranges, colored lenses can produce enough light on the target to silhouette the sights; at long ranges, colored lenses will not provide enough light off the target to illuminate the pistol sights. The Marine must be able to see the target by some other means, (e.g., contrast, moonlight).

(b) Acquire sight picture by illuminating the sights.

- A colored lens can be held directly over the sights to shine light on the top of the pistol to illuminate the sights. This method allows sight alignment to be established without revealing the Marine to the enemy. This method can be used with a clear lens to make a precision shot at long ranges but, chances are, the light will illuminate the Marine.

- A colored lens can be shined from directly behind the pistol sights to illuminate them. This method allows sight alignment to be established, but will reveal the Marine's position to the enemy.

(4) Target Engagement Techniques With the Flashlight. There are two flashlight target engagement techniques: Two-Handed Grip Technique and a Cross-Hand Technique.

(a) Two-Handed Grip Technique. The following technique is used with a straight/tubular flashlight, most often with an Isosceles position. See figure 8-7.

- Grasp the flashlight with the left hand with the lens pointing downrange. Wrap the thumb and index finger of the left hand around the body of the flashlight with the thumb resting on the on/off switch. The thumb should be placed to allow easy operation of the on/off switch without disrupting the grip on the flashlight.

- Extend both arms toward the target and bring the flashlight alongside the pistol so the fingers of the left and right hands are touching. Wrap the bottom three fingers of the left hand around the fingers of the right, incorporating the flashlight into a two-handed grip. Apply isometric pressure against both hands to aid in stabilizing the pistol.

	TIME	DISTANCE	SIZE	TRIGGER CONTROL	SIGHT PICTURE	BREATH CONTROL/ STABILITY OF HOLD
SINGLE ACTION	LONGER ENGAGE-MENT TIME	LONG RANGE	SMALL TARGET	CRITICAL	CRITICAL	CRITICAL
DOUBLE ACTION	LONGER ENGAGE-MENT TIME	CLOSE RANGE	LARGE TARGET	LESS CRITICAL	LESS CRITICAL	LESS CRITICAL

Figure 8-7. Flashlight Two-Handed Grip Technique (Isosceles Position).

- This technique can be incorporated in a Weaver position; the more the left hand wraps around the right, the more the body can be angled and the left elbow bent. Apply "push-pull" pressure on the grip to stabilize the pistol. See figure 8-8.

Figure 8-8. Flashlight Two-Handed Grip Technique (Weaver Position).

- This technique is effective for firing multiple shots because recoil can be better managed because the flashlight and pistol will recoil as a unit.

- The pistol and flashlight must be side by side and level so if the Marine has to engage a target, he can do so readily without making adjustments to the pistol or the flashlight.

- Whenever possible, the flashlight should be just in front of the muzzle of the pistol so it does not illuminate the pistol. Placement of the flashlight alongside the pistol may need to be adjusted depending on the size of the flashlight or the location of the on/off mechanism.

(b) Cross-Hand Technique. The following technique is used primarily with a Weaver position and can be used with either a straight/tubular flashlight or an L-shaped flashlight. See figure 8-9.

- Grasp the flashlight with the left hand, with the fingers wrapped around the top of the flashlight, and the thumb wrapped around the bottom. Place the thumb on the on/off button while maintaining a firm grip on the flashlight.

- Extend both arms toward the target and bring the left hand under the pistol so that the back of the left hand is resting firmly against the back of the right hand. Apply isometric pressure against both hands to aid in stabilizing the pistol. The right arm is fully extended and the left arm is bent at the elbow.

Figure 8-9. Flashlight Cross-Hand Technique.

(5) Considerations for the Carry/Transport. When searching an area for targets, the Marine will move with the pistol at the carry or transport dictated by the threat level.

(a) Ready. If enemy contact is expected (contact imminent), the pistol is carried at the Ready and the Marine carries the flashlight in his left hand and incorporates it into his firing grip. In the Ready, the Marine can search for targets and readily present the pistol and flashlight to the target for engagement without making adjustments to his grip or the flashlight. See figures 8-10 and 8-11.

Figure 8-10. Flashlight Ready Carry (Cross-Hand Technique).

Figure 8-11. Flashlight Ready Carry (Two-Handed Grip Technique).

(b) Alert. If enemy contact is likely, the pistol is carried at the Alert and the Marine carries the flashlight in his left hand and incorporates it into his firing grip. The Marine must ensure the flashlight is not pointed at the deck because it will illuminate the Marine. If necessary, the head of the flashlight may have to be tilted up to elevate the beam to increase the field of view. In this case, however, when the weapon is presented, the flashlight will have to be lowered so it is level with the pistol muzzle so the light will shine directly on the target and sight picture can be established. See figures 8-12 and 8-13.

Figure 8-12. Flashlight Alert Carry (Two-Handed Grip Technique).

Figure 8-13. Flashlight Alert Carry (Cross-Hand Technique).

(c) Holster Transport. If there is no immediate threat, the pistol is holstered and the Marine carries the flashlight with his left hand to search for targets. Should a target present itself, the Marine will present the pistol from the holster and engage the target. Time and distance to the target will dictate whether the Marine incorporates the flashlight and his left hand into the firing grip.

Chapter 9
One-Handed Techniques

Note
The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines must reverse directions as needed.

9001. One-Handed Presentation and Shooting

In combat, a situation may arise where the Marine must engage a target by using only one hand. Marines armed with the pistol are armed with this weapon primarily because they need their hands for other purposes, i.e., leading, directing, operating equipment, etc.

a. One-Handed Firing. A Marine will fire the pistol one-handed when:

- The Marine's other hand is occupied.
- A target presents itself so quickly, at a close range, that the Marine does not have time to establish a two-handed grip and position.
- One of the Marine's hands is injured.

b. Adjustment of the Standing Position. To fire accurately, the Marine must maintain the same stability and control of the weapon, manage recoil, and recover on target as effectively with one hand as with two. See figure 9-1. This is accomplished by adjusting the standing position as the weapon is presented to the target. A target can appear from anywhere. Therefore, the Marine's angle to the target may need to be adjusted. This adjustment is made while the pistol is being presented to the target by moving or sliding the feet to orient the body to the target. For stability and balance, the right foot may be slightly forward of the left foot. The further to the right of the Marine the target is the farther forward the right foot will be. To adjust the standing position when firing one-handed:

- Increase the muscular tension in the right arm and bend the elbow slightly so that when the weapon recoils, the arm will give and better manage recoil.
    - For some Marines, muscular tension in the firing arm and the position of the body in relation to the target causes them to naturally cant the weapon inboard slightly. During recoil, the elbow breaks or bends as the muzzle climbs. A slight inboard cant of the weapon and firing arm allows a natural bend in the elbow which allows a better management of recoil and recovery of the sights back on target.

  - Any cant should be natural and not caused by excessive muscular tension. A slight cant does not affect shooting performance and should not alter the application of the fundamentals of marksmanship.

- Apply controlled muscular tension throughout the body to better manage the effects of recoil.

- Lean forward aggressively, rolling the shoulders forward and tucking the head into the shoulders.

Note

The following step is done only during training to demonstrate how to stabilize the position and to simulate the Marine's other hand being occupied.

- Place the left hand in a fist on the center of the torso to increase stability. If the left arm is swinging freely, it will cause a corresponding movement in the pistol, reducing stability and control. Placing the left hand on the torso also ensures it is not covered by the muzzle of the weapon as the weapon is presented.

Figure 9-1. One-handed Presentation.

c. Searching and Assessing After Firing One-handed. Following one-handed target engagement, the Marine must quickly make a decision whether it would be to his advantage, if possible, to free his occupied hand to place both hands on the pistol to search and assess. Whenever possible, the Marine should place both hands on the weapon to increase stability and to be ready for reengagement if necessary.

9002. One-Handed Reloading

a. Dry Reload. When only one hand is available, the dry reload can be performed as follows:

- Seek cover, if the situation permits.
- Press the magazine release button and allow the magazine to fall to the deck.
  - When using the right hand, press the magazine release button with the thumb.
  - When using the left hand, press the magazine release button with the trigger finger.
- With the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, position the pistol to facilitate loading the magazine. Depending on the firing position, this can be accomplished using one of the following methods:
  - **Standing Position and Two-Kneed Kneeling Position.** Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces up and the muzzle of the weapon is pointed away from the body. Place the pistol between the thighs or knees and apply pressure to hold the pistol in place. See figure 9-2. In the standing position, the Marine will need to bend slightly at the knees to secure the pistol between the thighs. See figure 9-3.

Figure 9-2. One-Handed Dry Reload - Two-Kneed Kneeling Position.

Figure 9-3. One-Handed Dry Reload - Standing Position.

- **Kneeling Position (High, Medium, Low).** Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces outboard and the muzzle is pointed away from the body. Place the rear portion of the slide in the bend of the right knee and apply pressure with the leg to hold the pistol in place. For additional control, the Marine may drop to a two-kneed kneeling position and place the pistol between his knees. See figure 9-4.

Figure 9-4. One-Handed Dry Reload - Kneeling Position.

- **Prone Position.** In the prone position, the Marine will place the pistol on the deck in front of him and against his body with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. Alternately, the Marine may roll on his side and place the pistol between his knees, with the magazine well facing out. See figure 9-5.

Figure 9-5. One-Handed Dry Reload - Prone Position.

- Withdraw a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket and insert it into the magazine well, seating it with the heel of the hand. See figures 9-6, 9-7, 9-8, and 9-9.

Figure 9-6. One-Handed Dry Reload – Two-Kneed Kneeling Position (Cont.).

Figure 9-7. One-Handed Dry Reload – Standing Position (Cont.).

Figure 9-8. One-Handed Dry Reload – Kneeling Position (Cont.).

Figure 9-9. One-Handed Dry Reload – Prone Position (Cont.).

- Grasp the pistol grip and remove the pistol from its secured location or from the deck.
- Press the slide release to allow the slide to move forward and chamber a round.
    - When using the right hand, press the slide release with the thumb.
    - When using the left hand, press the slide release with the index finger.

b. Condition 1 Reload. When only one hand is available, a Condition 1 reload can be performed as follows:

- With the muzzle pointing in a safe direction, position the pistol to allow for removal of the magazine (e.g., between the thighs, in the bend of the knee, in the holster, tucked in the cartridge belt, on the deck against the body). Any position is correct if it allows the magazine well to be exposed.
- Withdraw a filled magazine from the ammunition pocket.
- Press the magazine release button and remove the magazine from the pistol.
    - When using the right hand, press the magazine release button with the thumb.
    - When using the left hand, press the magazine release button with the index finger.
- Insert the filled magazine into the magazine well, seating it with the heel of the hand.
- Stow the partially filled magazine (e.g., inside the cartridge belt, in the cargo pocket).
- Grasp the pistol grip and remove the weapon from its secured location, keeping the trigger finger straight and off the trigger until ready to fire.

9003. One-Handed Remedial Action

Remedial action requires investigating the cause of the stoppage, clearing the stoppage, and returning the weapon to operation. When performing remedial action, seek cover if the tactical situation permits. Once a weapon ceases firing, the Marine must visually or physically observe the weapon to identify the problem before he can clear it. The steps taken to clear the weapon are based on what is observed.

- Remove the finger from the trigger and place it straight along the receiver.
- Lock the slide to the rear. To pull and lock the slide to the rear, push up on the slide stop and maintain pressure with the right thumb. (Push up on the slide stop with the left index finger if remedial action is being performed with the weak hand.) Secure the rear sight on the top of the cartridge belt or any other surface which will provide the resistance

needed to stabilize the pistol. See figure 9-10. While applying pressure on the pistol to keep the rear sight secured, push downward on the pistol in one continuous motion to lock the slide to the rear. See figure 9-11.

Note
Ensure the weapon does not go on safe
when locking the slide to the rear.

Figure 9-10. One-Handed Remedial Action.

Figure 9-11. One-Handed Remedial Action (Cont.).

- Place the weapon in a position to observe the chamber.
- Correct the stoppage:
  - If there is a round in the magazine but not in the chamber:

- Release the slide and observe a round being chambered.
- If you do not observe a round being chambered:
    - **TAP:** Keeping the muzzle pointed in a safe direction and placing the trigger finger straight along the receiver, strike the bottom of the magazine against a hard surface to ensure it is seated.
        - In the kneeling position, this is accomplished by striking the magazine against the thigh. See figure 9-12.

Figure 9-12. TAP the Magazine Against the Knee – Kneeling Position.

        - In the standing position, bring the right knee up while striking the magazine against the right thigh. See figure 9-13.

Figure 9-13. TAP the Magazine Against the Knee – Standing Position.

- In the prone position, strike the magazine against the deck.

    - **RACK:** To pull the slide to the rear, the Marine must place the pistol against a surface which will provide enough resistance to permit him to rack the slide fully to the rear and chamber a round.

        - Rotate the pistol so the rear sight can be hooked on the top of the cartridge belt or any other surface (e.g., the edge of a table, wall, heel of the boot) which will provide the resistance needed to rack the slide in a smooth, uninterrupted motion. Do not let the muzzle of the weapon cover the body. See figures 9-14 and 9-15.

Figure 9-14. Rack Slide Against Cartridge Belt.

Figure 9-15. Rack Slide Against Heel of Boot.

        - Apply pressure on the pistol to keep the rear sight secured while pushing downward on the pistol to move the slide fully to the rear.

        - Release pressure on the pistol to chamber a round.

- **BANG:** Recover the pistol on target, reestablish sight alignment/sight picture and attempt to fire.

9004. Presentation from the Holster with the Weak Hand

In combat, the Marine must be prepared to engage targets at any time. Therefore, the Marine must have the ability to present the weapon from the holster with his weak (left) hand if circumstances prevent him from using his strong (right) hand. He must apply the same smooth, controlled movement to present the weapon to the target. There are three methods for withdrawing the pistol from the holster with the weak hand. The Marine should practice each to determine which method works best for him.

a. Method One - Pistol Rotation

- Unfasten and release the D-ring with the left hand. See figure 9-16.

Figure 9-16. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation.

- Wrap the fingers and thumb around the pistol grip so the index finger and thumb are around the base of the pistol grip. See figure 9-17.

Figure 9-17. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation (Cont.).

- Draw the pistol straight up until the trigger guard clears the top of the holster. See figure 9-18.

Figure 9-18. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation (Cont.).

- Rotate the pistol so the magazine well faces the target and the trigger guard rests on the top of the holster. Ensure the trigger guard rests securely against the top of the holster. See figure 9-19.

Figure 9-19. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation (Cont.).

- Maintaining downward pressure on the pistol, slide the left hand around the pistol grip to facilitate establishing a firing grip. See figure 9-20.

Figure 9-20. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Pistol Rotation (Cont.).

- Grasp the pistol and continue to withdraw the pistol until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle toward the target.

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the left hand while starting to punch the weapon out toward the target. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, and establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area.

- Continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

b. Method Two - Hand Rotation

- Unfasten and release the D-ring with the left hand.

- Push the holster flap up and out of the way with the back of the left hand.

- Push the right hip out to facilitate grasping the pistol grip. Grasp the pistol grip with the fingers between the holster flap and the pistol grip and the thumb wrapped around the other side of the pistol grip, against the backstrap. See figure 9-21.

Note

The cartridge belt may be pulled with the left hand to bring the holster closer to the center of the body to facilitate grasping the pistol.

Figure 9-21. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Hand Rotation.

- Draw the pistol straight up while rotating the pistol so the magazine well faces inboard until the trigger guard rests on the holster. See figure 9-22. Establish a firing grip, and rotate the thumb to a position to operate the safety. See figure 9-23.

Figure 9-22. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Hand Rotation (Cont.).

Figure 9-23. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Hand Rotation (Cont.).

- Continue to withdraw the pistol until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle to the target. See figure 9-24.

Figure 9-24. Weak Hand Presentation from Holster - Hand Rotation (Cont.).

- Sweep the safety with the thumb of the left hand while starting to punch the weapon out toward the target. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger, and establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area.

- Continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

c. Method Three - Knee Placement. This method is particularly effective when firing from the two-kneed kneeling position and the standing position.

- Unfasten and release the D-ring with the left hand.

- Wrap the fingers and thumb around the pistol grip so the index finger and thumb are around the base of the pistol grip. Draw the pistol straight up until the muzzle clears the holster and rotate the muzzle forward. The magazine well should face upward.

- Place the pistol between the thighs, applying enough tension to keep the pistol in place. The Marine must ensure that he does not disengage the safety while performing this motion and that the muzzle of the weapon is clear of the body. In the standing position, the Marine will need to bend at the knees slightly to facilitate securing the pistol between the thighs.

- Remove the left hand from the pistol grip and rotate the hand around the pistol grip to facilitate establishing a firing grip.

- Grasp the pistol grip and remove the pistol from the thighs, rotating the pistol until the muzzle is pointed toward the target.

- Sweep the safety with thumb of the left hand while starting to punch the weapon out toward the target.

- Establish a firing grip and continue to punch the weapon out toward the target. At the same time, place the trigger finger on the trigger and establish sight alignment and sight picture within the aiming area.

- Continue trigger pressure until the shot is fired.

9005. Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other

Situations may arise in combat where it is beneficial for the Marine to transfer the pistol to the left hand to engage a target because the right hand or arm is injured. To safely transfer the pistol from one hand to the other, perform the following steps:

Note
This procedure is written to transfer the pistol from the right hand to the left hand.

- With the muzzle pointed in the direction of the target, place the trigger finger straight along the receiver. See figure 9-25.

Figure 9-25. Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other.

- With the left hand, place the web of the index finger and thumb under the backstrap of the pistol. See figure 9-26.

Figure 9-26. Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other (Cont.).

- Wrap the fingers of the left hand around the pistol grip while releasing the grip of the right hand.
- Establish a firing grip with the left hand on the pistol. See figure 9-27.

Figure 9-27. Transferring the Pistol from One Hand to the Other (Cont.).

Chapter 10
Advanced Techniques

Note
The procedures in this chapter are written for right-handed Marines; left-handed Marines must reverse directions as needed.

10001. Shooting on the Move

When moving from one area of cover to another, it may become necessary to engage a target that presents an immediate threat. In this situation, the Marine lets accurate fire serve as his cover.

a. Moving with the Pistol. The likelihood of encountering a threat will dictate how the pistol should be carried while moving. However, whatever the method of carry, the muzzle of the weapon should be pointed in the same direction that the head and eyes are directed. Like the movement of a tank turret, the eyes and muzzle move as one.

(1) Alert Position. When carrying the pistol in the Alert position, the weapon should be tucked in close to the body, the finger off the trigger. This position allows the shooter freedom of movement and still allows for a quick presentation of the weapon.

(2) Ready Position. If there is a high probability of encountering a threat, the Marine should carry the weapon in the ready position while moving.

b. Moving – The Glide Technique. To shoot accurately while moving, the shooter cannot simply run or walk fast. A normal running movement produces too much bounce in the Marine's body. This makes it extremely difficult to use the sights of the pistol or to achieve a needed level of stability for accurate shooting. Lifting the legs in a normal manner may also cause the individual to trip on debris while concentrating on a target or cover.

- The proper movement technique is similar to a glide. A lower center of gravity is achieved by keeping the knees bent and the upper body erect. The bent knees also serve to absorb the shock from movement. The feet are not lifted as high as in a normal walk or run. This allows for kicking an obstruction as opposed to tripping on it.

- The feet and knees are pointed in the direction of travel. If there is a need to engage a target off to the side, the shooter rotates at the waist to move his upper body in the desired direction. The upper body shooting position does not change.

- The glide is not a technique that can be used for a long period of time or for long distances. Rather, the Marine can move in a normal manner until it becomes necessary to engage a target, at which time he should slow and assume the glide. This method of movement allows for accurate target engagement.

c. Engaging Targets – Using the Pistol Sights. When the time comes to shoot, it is extremely important to concentrate on the front sight of his weapon. The adherence to the fundamentals of marksmanship becomes even more vital under these adverse shooting conditions.

d. Continue Moving. A Marine should continue to move no matter what happens. Continuing to move makes it difficult for an adversary to engage the Marine and can be one of the best assets the individual has. When moving to cover or to a different position, the Marine should not stop to engage a target.

e. Reloading and Stoppages. If a stoppage occurs or a reload is required while moving, the shooter's primary consideration is to keep moving and seek cover. Ideally, reloads and clearing stoppages should be performed behind cover.

10002. Turn and Fire

The techniques for turn and fire allow a Marine to engage a target that is not directly in front of him. The key to turn and fire is smoothness and quickness of pivoting and presentation of the weapon to engage the threat. This is achieved by adhering to the principle that wherever the head goes, the body will follow.

a. Engaging Targets 90 Degrees to the Right of the Marine. To engage a target that is 90 degrees to the right of the Marine:

- Turn the head toward the threat and identify the target. See figure 10-1. Once the target is identified, the Marine maintains focus on the target for the rest of the presentation.

Figure 10-1. Engaging Targets 90 Degrees to the Right.

- Begin presentation. At the same time, turn toward the target by raising the left foot while pivoting on the ball of the right foot, then planting the left foot until squarely facing the target and in a natural stance. See figure 10-2.

Figure 10-2. Engaging Targets 90 Degrees to the Right (Cont.).

- Engage the target.

b. Engaging Targets 90 Degrees to the Left of the Marine. To engage a target that is 90 degrees to the left of the Marine:

- Turn the head toward the threat and identify the target. See figure 10-3. Once the target is identified, the Marine maintains focus on the target for the rest of the presentation.

Figure 10-3. Engaging Targets 90 Degrees to the Left.

- Begin presentation. At the same time, turn toward the target by raising the right foot while pivoting on the ball of the left foot, then planting the right foot until squarely facing the target and in a natural stance. See figure 10-4.

Figure 10-4. Engaging Targets 90 Degrees to the Left (Cont.).

- Engage the target.

c. Engaging Targets 180 Degrees to the Rear of the Marine. To engage a target that is 180 degrees to the rear of the Marine:

- Turn the head toward the target, looking over either the right or left shoulder, and identify the target. See figures 10-5 and 10-6. Once the target is identified, the Marine maintains focus on the target for the rest of the presentation.

Figure 10-5. Engaging Targets 180 Degrees to the Rear (Right Shoulder).

Figure 10-6. Engaging Targets 180 Degrees to the Rear (Left Shoulder).

- Begin presentation. At the same time, pivot toward the target.
    - To pivot to the right, pick up the left foot, move it across the right foot, while pivoting 180 degrees on the ball of the right foot, and plant it squarely. The Marine should be squarely facing the target and in a natural shooting stance. See figure 10-7.

Figure 10-7. Engaging Targets 180 Degrees to the Rear (Right Shoulder) (Cont.).

- To pivot to the left, pick up the right foot, move it across the left foot, while pivoting 180 degrees on the ball of the left foot, and plant it squarely. The Marine should be squarely facing the target and in a natural shooting stance. See figure 10-8.

Figure 10-8. Engaging Targets 180 Degrees to the Rear (Left Shoulder) (Cont.).

- Engage the target.

Figure List for MCRP 3-01B, Pistol Marksmanship

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Chapter Three

Chapter Four

Figure 4-01. Sight Alignment.

Figure 4-02. Sight Picture.

Chapter Five

Chapter Six

Chapter Seven

Chapter Eight

Chapter Nine

Chapter Ten